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Peres: Referendum will okay pact with PA

Public to have last word on final status deal with Palestinians

DAVID MAKOVSKY
SALALAH, OMAN

PRIME Minister Shimon Peres, speaking to reporters en route to Oman, announced yesterday that he wants to submit future agreements with the Palestinians on the final status of the territories to a national referendum.

When pressed, he admitted that he had not yet received approval from the Labor Party or notified Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat about his plan.

He noted that a referendum is also Israel's policy with Syria, so Arafat should not see this as being directed solely against him.

Peres voiced hope that the move would not cause a delay in the final status talks, which are supposed to begin next month and conclude by May 1999. Among the highly charged issues to be determined is the final status of Jerusalem.

The Likud has charged that if Peres is elected he would divide the city, an allegation which Peres heatedly denies. Yet Peres' statement was clearly designed to divide the Likud of its strongest constituency, as the public will now have the last word on any deal with the Palestinians.

"I will ask the [Labor] Party



Prime Minister Shimon Peres receives a ceremonial dagger from Omani Sultan Qaboos Bin Said al-Said yesterday.

(Avi Ohayon / Government Press Office)

for a mandate to conduct negotiations on final status with the Palestinians, and to bring its result to a referendum," Peres declared.

While he insisted his plan is only a recommendation that will be brought before the upcoming Labor convention, officials privately admit that this procedure is a mere formality, given Peres' broad sway within his party.

Peres suggested that a referendum is the best guarantee that Israel will not make too many concessions. "When you run such

negotiations, you want results that are acceptable to the majority of the public. This is the best way there is to ensure majority support," he said.

He denied the move undermined the essence of democratic elections: presenting specific policy alternatives and letting the public decide.

"There has never been a party platform that predicted the results of a negotiation. Did any party platform contain any mention of Gaza-Jericho? A three-

zone approach to the West Bank? No. It is not enough to have a plan, you need to have a partner," he declared.

"You get into such empty debates about phraseology [when drafting a platform], which divides the movement and, anyway, it's irrelevant."

He indicated it is unfair to ask any party to provide an exact blueprint of its peace plan because this becomes the baseline for further concessions and precludes the "creativity" needed by

policy-makers to hammer out compromises with the other side.

He also noted that the public knows the basic parameters of Labor's position: not transferring the Palestinians, while ensuring that Israel does not become a binational state.

Peres reiterated that his goal is the formation of a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation, but admitted that he did not know if this is acceptable to the other side. He said he thought such a solution would be far preferable to a

Palestinian state, which he said he opposes.

Moreover, Peres supported those in Labor, such as Foreign Minister Ehud Barak, who call for the platform not to continue declaring opposition to a Palestinian state.

He also indicated he believes that raids into Palestinian cities, coupled with the expansion of settlements, would bring about the collapse of the peace process.

On another issue, Peres admitted for the first time that his goal of achieving a defense treaty with the US during his upcoming visit there is not realistic. During his discussions with Peres last month, President Bill Clinton said talk of such a treaty is "premature." US officials believe it should come after an Israel-Syria peace treaty.

Instead, the two are expected to announce a reaffirmation of past US commitments to Israel, including maintaining its qualitative technological edge, as well as formalizing other commitments, such as anti-terrorism assistance and continued development of the Arrow missile.

Meanwhile, a poll taken on the eve of Peres' visit to Qatar showed that more than two-thirds of the state's citizens oppose establishing diplomatic relations with Israel.

The poll, which appeared in the *Al Watan* newspaper, showed that 69 percent of those polled were strongly opposed to such relations while 31 percent favored them.

Liat Collins adds:

Tsomet leader Rafael Eitan called on Peres to "immediately return home from his trip to royal stables on the Arabian Peninsula and fulfill his duties as defense minister."

Eitan said developments on the northern border require a full-time defense minister "and not a flying prime minister who sees his position as defense minister as secondary and unimportant."

More reactions, Page 2

WORLD OF SPORT
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Oman is open to Israel

DAVID MAKOVSKY
SALALAH, OMAN

PRIME Minister Shimon Peres emerged from talks with Omani Sultan Qaboos Bin Said al-Said yesterday, and said he was told that "Oman is open to Israelis and Israel."

He said he expected Israeli tourism to Oman to be permitted very shortly.

Peres, who was received with full military honors, said he was touched by the "very warm" reception, "bailing" Qaboos' commitment to a peace-based economic cooperation.

Speaking at a palace press conference after a 90-minute meeting with Peres, Foreign Minister Yusuf Bin-Alawi defined peace along the lines favored by Peres.

"Peace does not mean no more wars; it also means progress and development. If there is no peace, there will be ruin," he said. He then hailed "our friend" Peres as an architect of peace.

Peres also seemed moved by the ambience of the talks at Qaboos' winter palace, which

(Continued on Page 2)

Scitex takeover bid seen as hostile

GALIT LIPKIS BECK
and MARILYN HENRY

A POTENTIALLY hostile takeover bid has been made by emigrant high-tech entrepreneur David Gilio to purchase the troubled Herzliya-based Scitex company's shares for \$356 million—about 44 percent above its market value. The offer was being considered last night by Clal Industries officials, who termed the proposal "vague and confusing."

The letter [making the offer] was unsolicited and is not an offer. Scitex will seek clarification of this vague and confusing communication and will respond to it in due course, if appropriate," a company statement said.

A spokesman for Clal, the largest share holder in Scitex with more than 20% of its stock, said Clal general manager David Weinsal and the board of directors held the meeting to discuss the legal implications of such a deal. He said the board will have to carefully examine the terms of the proposed transaction and the implications on shareholders in order to prevent legal complications.

Gilo, 39, left Israel for the Silicon Valley several years ago. He dropped out of the University of California at Berkeley after one term, starting a consulting firm that provided support services for supercomputers at universities and government agencies, according to *The New York Times*. He is chairman of DSP Communications in Cupertino, California, which reportedly supplies 35 percent of the computer chips for Japanese cellular phones and was recently listed in *Business Week* as one of the fastest growing stocks in 1995, after rising 300%.

Gilo said he would use his connections with Japanese electronics manufacturers to "downsize" Scitex technology and to cut costs and prices. "The major thing that hurt [Scitex's] business was they missed the whole desktop publishing phenomenon," he told the *Times*. "They had the software years ago."

In reaction to Gilo's announcement, Clal Electronics shares shot up 6% on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange yesterday.

Earlier this week Gilio sent a letter to Scitex Chairman Dov Tadmor stating that he was interested in purchasing about 42.8% of Scitex's outstanding shares at about \$20 per share in cash.

"The price represents a premium of 44% over the price to the date of this letter," he wrote. "Because Scitex has reported a

loss for 1995 and for each of its last two quarters, the price can not be expressed as a multiple of its net income. Since the \$20 per share price is based on a review of publicly available information, should additional values be demonstrated by Scitex, a higher price could be considered."

Gilo emphasized the urgency in concluding the transaction as soon as possible, emphasizing that Scitex is in an "extremely precarious condition," reflected in its approximate 70% stock price drop since January 1993. (Continued on Page 9)

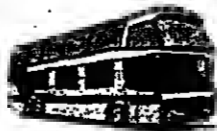
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of Singapore

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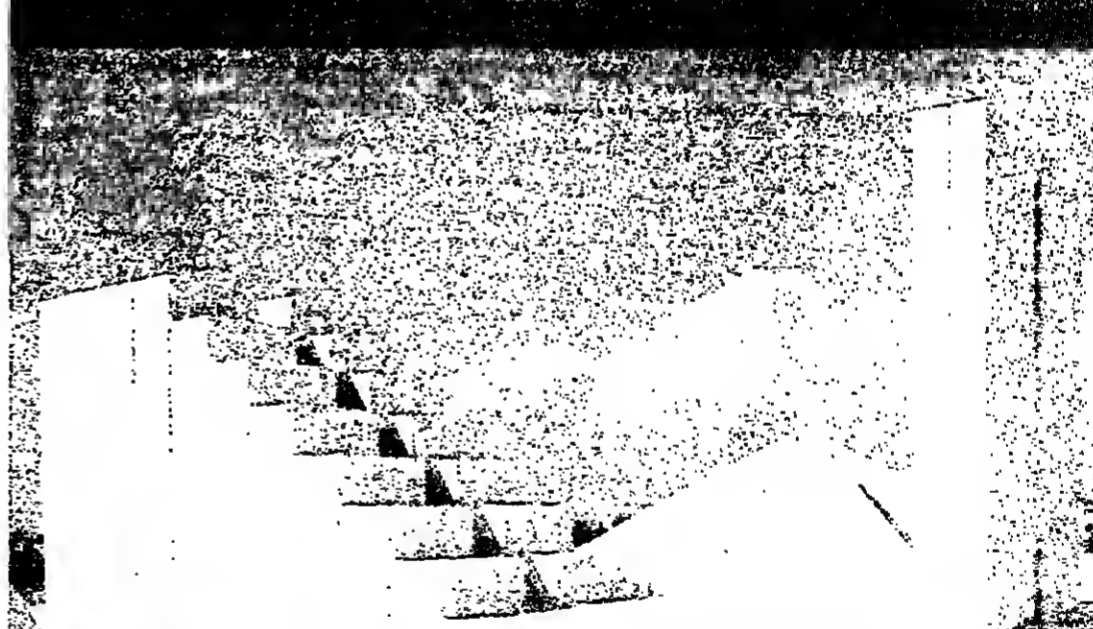
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Peres's referendum idea irks Right and Left

PRIME Minister Shimon Peres's political bombshell calling a referendum on any final agreement with the Palestinians drew sharp fire from both the Right and the Left yesterday.

In the Likud, the move was seen as a calculated attempt to avoid discussion of the issues in the election, to avoid the need for Labor to make any clear undertakings to the voter, and to later avoid having to answer for any departure from the platform.

Pary chairman Binjamin Netanyahu argued that "the talk

about a future referendum is a ploy to pull the wool over the electorate's eyes. This is a red herring. The real referendum is being held now. The elections are a referendum, and in it the voters are asked to make a choice between two distinct approaches.

"They must choose between the Likud's program, which calls for letting the Palestinians run their affairs but which leaves all foreign policy and especially defense in our hands, and our hands alone. On the other side is the Labor line which entails yielding

SARAH HONIG

all the territory to [Yasser] Arafat, along with all the authority, and entrusting our security to his hands.

"Peres is afraid of the voters' verdict and is seeking to confuse the nation, which knows full well that he will cede the entire Golan and divide Jerusalem."

Meretz was equally critical of the move. Pary leader Yossi Sarid said, "This move is intended to cynically blur all political lines and issues and neutralize the

campaign of any substantive discussion and choice. If this is the case, then there is nothing left to talk about now and the question arises why hold elections altogether. Perhaps we should all just wait for Mr. Peres's promised referendum."

The news about Peres's statement came as no surprise to Labor, where it was revealed that the possibility of taking the dealings with the Palestinians out of the election campaign via a referendum was already discussed months ago, and is to be officially

made the centerpiece of the upcoming party convention in two weeks.

The Likud-Tsomet-Gesher campaign team, meanwhile, met for the first time yesterday afternoon. It is planning a three-pronged assault: Peres himself will be targeted in a campaign that will charge that he has failed; possible Labor concessions in Jerusalem, the Golan, and the Jordan Valley will be highlighted; and the Likud will repay Labor for its 1992 campaign by enlisting disenchanted Laborites.

The referendum: Another attempt at cutting election odds

COMMENT

DAVID MAKOVSKY

PRIME Minister Shimon Peres's bombshell yesterday, promising a national referendum before signing any deal with the Palestinians on final status negotiations, means he is not taking any chances as he seeks to win the May election.

Peres - who has yet to win one unambiguous election victory in four attempts - knows that a five percent lead in the polls less than two months before the elections is too close for comfort.

In some ways, the juxtaposition of his announcement and his landmark trip to the Gulf encapsulates the two faces of being a peace-maker.

Peres's advisors naturally want to portray their boss as someone who is blazing a path for Israel's acceptance in the world, with all of its economic implications. With peace framed as an opportunity, Peres believes he cannot lose since most Israelis are better off economically today than they were four years ago.

Yet the Likud is trying to remind the public that peace-making

is a risk, not just an opportunity. By painting Peres as an unreliable negotiator who will divide Jerusalem, the Likud is seeking to frame the election in terms of Peres being a risk that Israel cannot afford. Therefore, pledging a referendum yesterday was very significant. Peres is seeking to limit the Likud's main line of attack by saying that now the public will have the last word.

It may be that Peres's decision yesterday was tactically brilliant, but at the same time it exacerbates the feeling that these elections are becoming increasingly vacuous. Due to pledges of another referendum, Labor has already swept the Golan under the rug, and now the future of the territories is under that same rug.

The Likud is equally vague about its plans for the territories and what it means when it throws out the cliché "Peace with Security." Elections are supposed to decide tough issues of contention, but in Israel they are now being used to avoid them.

Arafat: Israel has declared war on Palestinians

Jerusalem Post Staff and agencies

"ISRAEL has declared war on the Palestinian people," Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat said yesterday in a letter to Arab League Secretary-General Esmat Abdel-Meguid.

"The collective punishments, the refusal to withdraw from Hebron, and the Israeli army's reconquest of areas from which it had withdrawn are a declaration of war against the Palestinian people."

Portions of the letter were read by Mohammed Subieh, the PLO's representative to the Arab League, at a press conference in Cairo.

Arafat asked for Arab League support,

and for the league "to request an immediate meeting of the UN Security Council to put an end to the closure."

Arafat, meanwhile, will visit the West Bank tomorrow, his first visit since the closure was imposed on February 25, for a meeting of the Palestinian Council in Ramallah, council Speaker Ahmed Qreia (Abu Ala) said.

He added that the meeting, which will end on Thursday, will discuss the closure, among other things.

In a related development, Peace Watch

has reported that the Palestinian Authority has yet to arrest six of the 13 Izzadin Kassam members whose names were on the list Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak presented to Arafat on February 27.

In addition, the group said, there are doubts whether Awad Silmi, one of those on the list, who was arrested in early March, remains in prison.

The six still at large are Mohammed Dief, the Izzadin Kassam commander and No. 1 on the wanted list; Mohi Eddin

Sharif, No. 2 on the list, who is suspected of involvement in several attacks, including the bombing of the No. 26 bus in Jerusalem last August; Hassan Salameh, wanted for planning the recent wave of suicide bombings; Yihye Ghoul; Riad Housni; and Abu Sawil.

An Israeli security source told Peace Watch that Silmi, a suspect in the murder of Lt.-Col. Meir Mintz in December 1993, was recently released from prison by the PA, but this could not be confirmed from other sources, and senior Palestinian sources deny that Silmi has been released.

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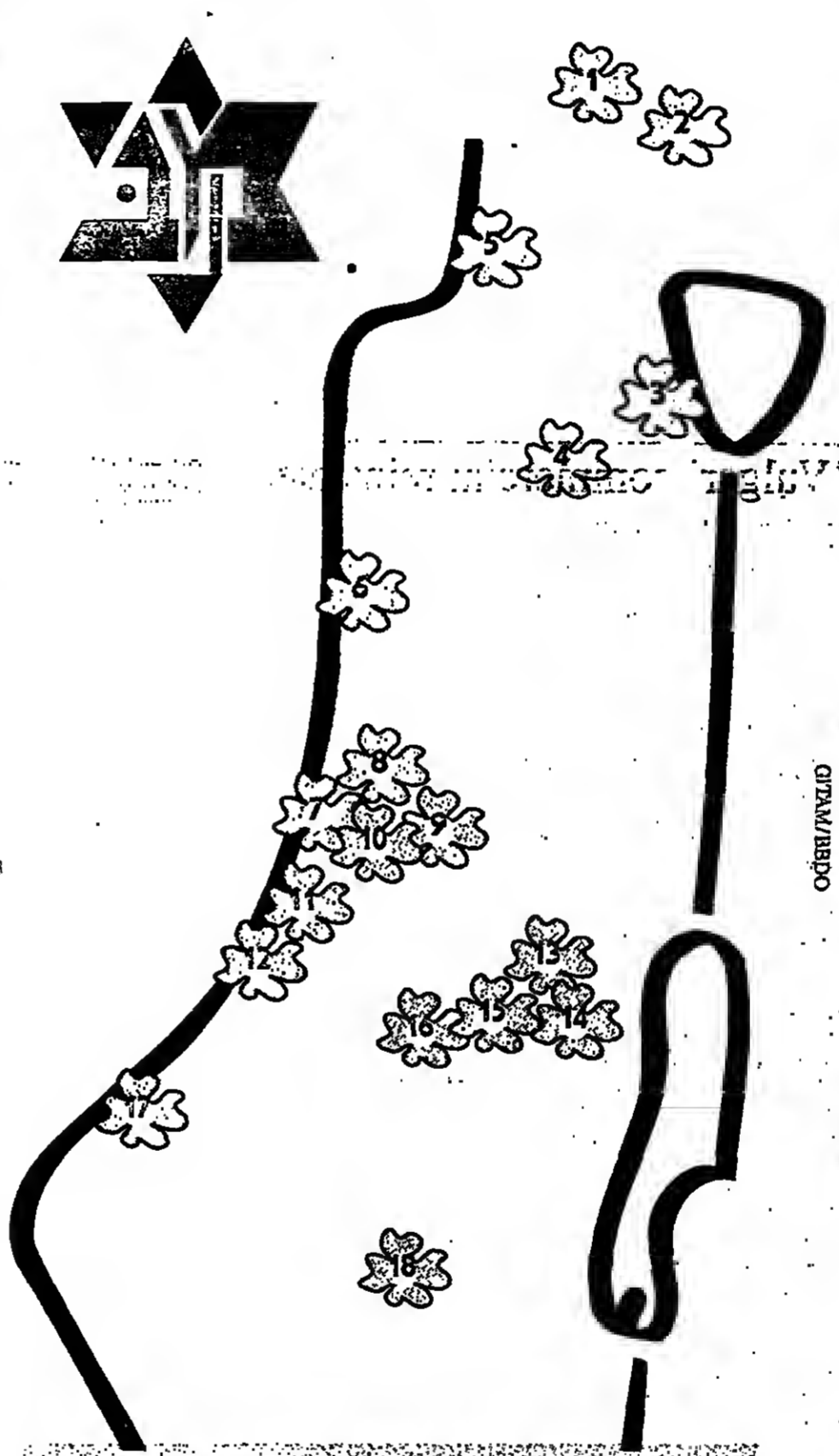
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Two Israelis briefly detained in Jericho

HERB KENON

TWO residents of Na'ama in the Jordan Valley were detained briefly by the Palestinian Police in Jericho yesterday, after they left the main road through Jericho and entered a side street in the city.

Eitan Rahimpur, one of the two men detained, said the police stopped them at a roadblock and told them they were being detained for their own security. They were taken to the headquarters of Fatah's Force 17 in the city, where they were held for

15 minutes, and waited for a joint Israeli-Palestinian patrol which took them to the DCO, where they were released.

Rahimpur said that neither he nor the other man, Yoel Fux, were armed, and that the Palestinians searched them and their car. He said the Palestinians mistook them "well."

Rahimpur said that this is the first time he has been stopped by Palestinian police in Jericho, where he goes occasionally on personal business.

Japan donates \$21 million to Palestinian Authority

GAZA (Reuters) - Japan has donated \$21 million to the Palestinian Authority for health and education projects in the self-rule areas, officials said yesterday.

The money was handed over at a ceremony in Gaza City on Sunday.

Senior PLO official Nabil Sheath told reporters it was the first time a foreign country had donated funds directly to the self-rule administration rather than channel the money through the UN or World Bank.

Palestinian officials said the

Japanese aid had been agreed before Israel clamped a closure on the West Bank and Gaza Strip more than a month ago in response to terrorist suicide bombings.

On Saturday, Palestinian President Yasser Arafat met in Gaza with World Bank President James Wolfensohn and called on the organization to exert pressure on donor nations to fulfill financial pledges made to the P.A. Donor nations have pledged \$2.4 billion to the Palestinian Authority over five years.

Cyclist killed in collision

A bicyclist was killed last night and a driver seriously injured when the bike and car collided near the Yoav Junction on the Kiryat Gat-Ashkelon highway.

OMAN

(Continued from Page 1) blended a modern marble construction with traditional arches and minarets overlooking the Arabian Sea.

He told reporters that bilateral ties will focus on tourism, agriculture, and technological training. Apart from diplomats and top aides, Peres brought with him two businessmen to underscore hopes for bilateral economic joint ventures.

Dan Propper, head of the Manufacturers Association, said the two countries agreed on an exchange of business delegations in the coming months.

Peres announced that industrialist Shaul Eisenberg recently signed a \$200 million-\$300 million joint venture to build a power station and desalination plant in Oman.

Alawi said that an Omani commercial office in Tel Aviv is in the bureaucratic pipeline, but he refrained from setting a date for when it would open, even though 18 months ago Oman made a commitment to establish an office. Israel is expected to open a similar office, staffed by Israeli diplomats, in the next few weeks.

Oman will not be establishing full diplomatic ties until there is peace between Jerusalem and Damascus, but Israel and Oman have enjoyed quiet security links

since the mid-1970s. Oman was the only Arab state not to ostracize Egypt after it signed a peace treaty with Israel.

In a bid to defuse a potential source of tension, Peres phoned Qaboos before his arrival to assure him that steps are being taken to ease the closure in the territories. The closure, sometimes referred to in the Omani media as a "blockade," has received wide attention here.

Alawi seemed to endorse the steps taken by Peres. "We are satisfied with what the prime minister has announced," he said. "It is an exceptional situation due to terrorism. Neither Israeli nor the Palestinians are having a pleasant time. All governments must join together to eliminate terror so all will live."

Oman enjoys close ties with Teheran, but Peres told Israeli reporters that he pointedly avoided raising the Iranian issue, since this could embarrass Oman.

After the talks, Peres was treated to a visit to the sultan's stables where he admired a few dozen Arabian stallions.

Last night, Qaboos hosted a dinner for Peres's top aides. Today Peres flies to Qatar, where the two countries are expected to announce economic ties. He returns home late tonight.

Work begins on new Karnei Shomron mall

TRACTORS yesterday began clearing land in Karnei Shomron for the construction of a \$5 million shopping mall and office complex.

The cornerstone-laying ceremony for the 6,000 square meter complex is scheduled for next Monday.

The mall, plans of which were first reported in October in *The Jerusalem Post*, is being funded by Swiss investor Nissim Hacshuri, an Israeli living abroad.

Karnei Shomron Regional Council head Yehuda Lieberman said that Hacshuri, who he described as "on the right," decided to build the mall because he saw economic potential in the region. The mall, according to

Lieberman, will serve some 20,000 settlers in the region stretching from just outside Kfar Sava to Kedumim.

Lieberman said the mall is extremely significant for the region, because it shows that investors see economic potential in the area. "You can't stop natural growth," he said, "and this mall fulfills a real need in the area."

Lieberman said the mall has received all the necessary permits from the government and the Israel Lands Administration. The building did not have to be approved by the ministerial committee on settlements which is

monitoring construction in the settlements, because public buildings do not have to be approved by the committee, he said.

The mall was the subject of a heated cabinet discussion in October, with Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni saying that it should come before the ministerial committee, and prime minister Yitzhak Rabin at one point telling ministers to "cool down."

Peace Now yesterday called on Prime Minister Shimon Peres to immediately stop work on the mall, saying that its construction constitutes "a new political fact on the ground that will sabotage the peace process and strengthen its opponents."

NIS 500m. a year to be added for civics education

THE Education Ministry has decided to invest an additional NIS 500 million a year to expand civics and democracy programs and introduce new courses on the subject, Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein told a news conference yesterday.

The decision was in line with the recommendations of a committee, headed by Mordechai Kremnitzer, dean of the Hebrew University's law faculty, and including senior ministry officials, leading academics, and civics experts from both the secular and state religious schools, which analyzed the needs of the country's schools in these areas.

Close to 2,000 teachers are expected to be trained by the end of this year to teach the programs, which will then be introduced on a pilot basis in 55 schools in different areas of the country. They are expected to reach all schools

within a further five years.

This is the first time that all the country's schools will have the same curriculum in such an important and sensitive subject, Rubinstein said.

The new programs will stress democratic values, freedom, the rule of law, human rights, and open debate, Kremnitzer said. Also to be encouraged are appreciation of and participation in the democratic process.

Rubinstein cited the need to "nurture a more democratic society."

The emphasis will be to bring civics to younger pupils and to increase the number of study hours. High school pupils will spend four hours a week studying civics (instead of the current three), junior high school pupils

three hours weekly as compared to one, and elementary school pupils, starting in third grade, will for the first time spend one hour weekly discussing civics.

The Kremnitzer committee also called for the strengthening of existing democracy and co-existence programs, which promote tolerance between Jews and Arabs and secular and religious Jews. The deputy director of these programs will come from the religious sector.

The ministry allocated NIS 8m. to its democracy and co-existence units in 1996, as compared with last year's NIS 3.2m. Of this, some NIS 2.4m will be budgeted for supporting organizations active in the promotion of coexistence and democracy. Last year, the budget for this was NIS 1.3m.

The ministry's current total budget is some NIS 17 billion.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Nine of Meshulam's men indicted
Nine of Uzi Meshulam's followers, arrested during a violent demonstration opposite the Petah Tikva police station on Sunday night, were released on bail by the city's Magistrate's Court yesterday, after being indicted on disturbing the peace charges. At the protest, they sprayed police with tear gas, shouted anti-police and anti-government slogans, and hurled stones. Five policemen were lightly injured from the effects of the tear gas, and another officer's hand was fractured.
Raine Marcus

Sarid, French counterpart sign agreement
Noting that many opportunities for cooperation exist between Israel and France in the environmental arena, Environment Minister Yossi Sarid and French Environment Minister Corinne LePage yesterday signed a statement of cooperation for the advancement of bilateral regional research, and for the advancement of joint environmental projects relating to the Mediterranean and Middle East.
Jerusalem Post Staff

'Olympic' police delegation returns to US

BY BILL HUTMAN

AFTER two weeks of consulting with Israeli security officials about security for the upcoming summer Olympic games in Atlanta, a delegation of senior Georgia police officers returned home yesterday.

Israel is providing the US with both intelligence and operative security assistance in preparation for the Olympics, which local officials are concerned may be a target for both domestic and international terror attacks, according to American and Israeli officials.

During the 11-member delegation's fact-finding visit here they received briefings and demonstrations of anti-terror techniques.

"We're hoping for the best, but preparing for the worst," said Maj. Wayne Starley of the Georgia State Police.

"The Israeli experience with anti-terror methods is well known, and we are making the most of it," Starley said, adding that 750,000 visitors are expected daily at the games, which run for 17 days.

Security precautions are to be unprecedented: Parking will be forbidden near crowded areas as a precaution against car bombs; visitors will pass through metal detectors; and electronic identity cards will be issued to athletes and coaches to prevent unauthorized persons from entering the stadiums.

Starley said special security measures would begin to be implemented in the Atlanta area well before the beginning of the Olympics, in anticipation of the crowds expected to arrive before the start of the games.

The US police delegation, whose trip was sponsored by the University of Georgia, last week visited the base of the Yamam, the Israeli Police's elite anti-terror unit.

Prof. Robert Friedmann, head of the university's criminal justice department, noted Georgia police delegations have come here annually for the past several years. However, the latest visit took on special importance because of the Olympics and threat of terror, he said.

Israeli sources said Israeli security officials have traveled to the US recently to both give advice on security measures for the games and evaluate the security at the venues Israeli athletes will frequent.

Israeli security officials have also been updating their American counterparts on intelligence information concerning plans to disrupt the games by Islamic fundamentalist terror groups, according to the sources.

The sources said they were satisfied with the security measures planned by the American authorities, but were still concerned because of the continued threat of attacks at the games.

"The entire world will be watching the Olympics this summer and every nut out there who wants to draw attention to himself knows that and might try to do something," said one Israeli source.

American security sources said the US's strong siding with Israel following the recent wave of Hamas bombings has already made US sites all over the world targets for Islamic fundamentalists, creating even more concern about security during the Olympic games.

Dieticians: Count calories for Pessah

BY JUDY SIEGEL

PESSAH is a calorie-ridden holiday that can add kilos to waistlines in just a week. Dieticians urge people to count calories, substitute low-fat and low-calorie items for fattening products, and exercise.

Rina Lifa, a clinical dietician at the Rabin Medical Center-Beilinson Campus, notes that a single matza contains 140 calories, equal to two pieces of bread. People also tend to spread it with jam, butter, margarine, and other fattening foods, she said. Four cups of sweet wine total 600 calories, thus it is advisable to drink it sparingly only during the seder, and favor dry wine (with half the calories) at other holiday meals.

Because many conventional foods are missing from the Pessah menu, there is a tendency to eat many eggs and fried foods. Lifa recommends eating low-calorie matzo, vegetables, and low-calorie drinks.

Ami Ganor, a Kupat Holim Clalit dietician, notes that coconut - commonly used in Pessah cookies - is very fattening. One hundred grams contain 640 calories and is composed of 62% fat (seven-tenths of which is saturat-

ed and raises blood cholesterol).

She also recommends keeping dry matza and nuts which can cause choking away from small children. Give young children only matza that has been moistened. Because matza can cause constipation, one is advised to drink seven or eight glasses of water or low-calorie drinks a day. Older people are likely to have difficulty digesting matza, so moistening it is recommended. Adding vegetables and fruits to the diet and reducing dairy consumption will ease constipation.

Magen David Adom yesterday called on residents to donate blood before going away for Pessah, as blood shortages usually occur during the holidays. Information on places and times to donate can be obtained by calling 101 or 177-022-5911.

MDA also asked drivers and passengers not to evacuate accident victims in their cars but to wait for ambulances, as improper evacuation can cause the victim serious harm. MDA is bolstering its first-aid and ambulance teams during the holiday, especially in areas expected to receive a large number of holiday visitors.



Kes Elka Ya'akov Mahari testifies before former president Yitzhak Navon, who is leading the investigation into the Ethiopian blood scandal. (Israel Harari)

Ethiopian-born reservist: Will I be left to bleed?

BY JUDY SIEGEL

AN Ethiopian immigrant student yesterday told the Navon Commission, which is investigating the Magen David Adom blood donation affair, that as a combat soldier in the reserves he was afraid "no one would come near me if I [was wounded and] bled."

Amram Akrom, who is also deputy chairman of the Association for the Advancement of the Ethiopian Family, said the bad publicity raised by the affair

has stigmatized the entire community.

"It has unfairly been portrayed in the world as a black vs. white issue, one of racism, and this has caused serious damage to the State of Israel," he added.

Akrom criticized the Health Ministry for not having explained to the community that their blood was not being used for transfusions because of the relatively high rate of HIV in their community. He also charged that not enough is being done to educate the immigrants about sex and health.

Kes Elka Ya'akov Mahari, a senior religious leader in the Ethiopian community, said Ethiopians were offended by the affair because "for us, blood means soul, and all blood that is discarded is like a man's soul leaving his body."

'Vulgar' commercial reinstated

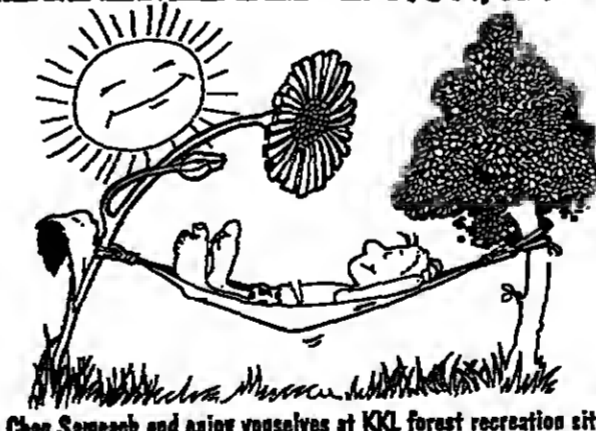
High Court yesterday ordered the Second Television and Radio Authority to cancel its ban on a commercial produced for the Beef Council by the Mayo Simone advertising agency.

The commercial shows a South American couple, and the woman says to the man: "It's not so bad, Alberto, tomorrow is couples day." Because of her South American accent, however, it seems as if the woman is saying: "It's not so bad, Alberto, tomorrow is coupling day."

The commercial had originally been approved and was aired 32 times. But after several viewers complained it was in bad taste, the authority banned it. Mayo Simone then petitioned the court. (Ium)

KEREN KAYEMETH LE ISRAEL - CREATING ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael invites you to visit its 1,000 forest recreation areas created for your enjoyment all over the country during the Passover Holiday. These sites are equipped with active recreation facilities, including picnic tables and benches, water fountains and outdoor grills. Please refrain from littering the areas and damaging the facilities and, remember, light fires sensibly and only in designated places.



Chag Sameach and enjoy yourselves at KKL forest recreation sites.

Following is a partial list of parks and recreation areas:

- JERUSALEM AREA AND THE CENTRAL REGION**
- Kennedy Forest - west of Moshav Ananivim (picnic tables adjacent to the Kennedy Memorial)
 - Sorels of Pura Pura Area - Matzy's Forest (shade area, water and washroom facilities adjacent to the monument)
 - Mitzpe Harel - about 1 km. northwest of Moshav Tzur, off the highway connecting the Shimshon and Nahshon Junctions (picnic tables, grass lawns, water, washroom facilities and shade areas adjacent to the KKL lookout tower)
 - Sheloni Hermon Recreation Area - Ma'ale HaHaimisha Forest, off the Nanaf road (picnic tables and toddlers' playground facilities)
 - Mama's Lookout and Recreation Area - Adullam Region, off the Acl's Junction-Beit Govnit highway, 1 km. south of Givat Yeshiyah, west along the paved road (lookout tower, picnic tables, water)
 - President's Forest Recreation Area - off the highway connecting the Shimshon and Nahshon Junctions, 2 km. west of Shimshon Junction (picnic areas, lookout tower, scenic viewpoints, hiking trails and "Sculpture Road")
 - Ein Kobi - northward off a dirt road originating on the highway east of Moshav Mevo Beitar, (tunnelled spring, agricultural terraces, picnic tables, water, washroom facilities)
 - American Independence Park - between the Moshavim Bar Giora and Malsiya east of Beit Shimon (picnic tables, playground facilities, archaeological and historical sites, scenic lookouts, hiking trails)
 - Kupat Holim Clalit Recreation Area - Harel Forest, off the highway between Ram Junction and Zedekiah (picnic tables, physical fitness and playground facilities)
 - Eluda Recreation Area - northwards off the Nahshon Junction-Rehovet highway via Hilda, some 2 km. from Nahshon Junction towards Rehovot (picnic, sport and washroom facilities, "Beit Herzl")
 - Burasa Road Recreation Area - opposite Moshav Meizur Zion (historic Burasa Road, "Einot Sossim," lush vegetation, picnic tables)
 - Ben Shimon Forest Recreation Area - east of the Ben Shimon Youth Village (picnic, washroom, sport and playground facilities, lookout tower)
 - Jerusalem Peace Forest - between Alon Ter and East Talpilot in Jerusalem (playground facilities and picnic tables)
 - Ramot Park - between Ramot and Shu'afit in Jerusalem (active recreation and playground facilities)
 - Ayalon (Canada) Park - in the Ayalon Valley near the Latrun Monastery, off the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv Highway (picnic tables, water, water spring, pools and aqueducts, archaeological sites, scenic lookouts, hiking trails, sporting, playground and washroom facilities)

In the framework of "Friday in the Park" activities, free guided tours will take place in Ayalon Park on Friday April 5, 1996 at 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

INFORMATION BOOTHS WILL OPERATE ON APRIL 7&8 1996 BETWEEN 9:00 A.M. AND 4:00 P.M. AT THE FOLLOWING SITES:

- Northern region:** Mahansiyim Junction, Ein Hanafitz, Hamorvil Junction, Misgav, Gidona Junction, Biryat Forest (Bat Y'et' Ranch).
- Central Region:** Ben Shimon Forest (Mitzpe Modin), Ayalon Park, Shimshon Junction, East Talpilot Promenade (Jerusalem).
- Southern Region:** Beit Kana Junction, Mahshabim Junction, Sheloni Junction, Yad Mordechai Junction.

- NORTHERN REGION**
- Farod Recreation Area in Sheffer Forest - off the Acl's-Safed highway (water streams, picnic tables, water fountains, washroom facilities, shaded shelters)
 - Ein Zeitim - northwards from the Ein Zeitim Junction on the Acl's-Safed highway towards Moshav Duhov (playground facilities, picnic tables, water fountains)
 - Ayalon Recreation Area - west of the Yitah-Metzudat Yesha Junction, along the northern border road (picnic tables, bridges, water fountains)
 - Biryat Fortness - north of Safed (museum, picnic tables, water)
 - Gilon Recreation Area - off Highway no. 85, Acl's-Safed, at Gilon Junction (scenic viewpoint, hiking trails, Mount Gneal, Dovec Cave, picnic tables)
 - Australia Park - at Misgav Regional Center, Misgav Junction (playground facilities, grass lawns, picnic tables, pergolas)
 - Ein Ro'im - in the Nahali Hills, off the Kfar Giladi-Margalit highway (picnic tables, fresh water spring and pools, scenic viewpoints)
 - Ofier Forest - off the Paradi-Hatza highway near Moshav Keren Mahari (lookout tower, recreation area, nature trails)
 - Tower and Stockade Recreation Area (Lower Hanita) - east of the Sheloni-Hanita road (restoration of Lower Hanita, scenic lookout from tower, picnic tables, water)
- Central Region:**
- Geren Park - along the northern border road, south of Kibbutz Eilon in Western Galilee (500 dunams of natural woodlands, rest alcoves, scenic lookouts onto Monfort Fortness and Nahal K'ziv, hiking trails to Nahal K'ziv and its fresh water springs)
 - Lavi Forest - off the Golani Junction-Tiberias highway, near Golani Junction (playground facilities, picnic tables)
 - HaShayara Recreation Area - off highway no. 70 south of Kabri Junction (reconstruction of Yehiam Battle, remains of historic flour mill and aqueduct, picnic tables, water)
 - Balfour Forest - near Migdal HaEmek (playground facilities, picnic tables, scenic lookouts)
 - Katit Sinal Recreation Area - off the road from Hama'ashim Junction to Mt. Gilboa (playground facilities, picnic tables, water)
 - Jordan River Valley Park - along the highway looking northwards from the Jordan River inlet to the Sea of Galilee toward Beit HaMedina (archaeology, picnic tables, water fountains)
- SOUTHERN REGION**
- Malachim Forest - Shachariya (scenic lookout, active recreation area, playground and washroom facilities, water fountains)
 - Lahav Forest - 10 km. eastward along the paved road from Devira Junction on the Beit Kana-BeerSheva highway (no. 70), (active recreation area, playground facilities, picnic tables, archaeological site, scenic lookout)
 - Yad Mordechai Recreation Area - off the Yad Mordechai-Nativet highway (picnic tables)
 - Ibbim Forest - near Sderot (active recreation area, playground facilities, picnic tables, outdoor grills, water fountains)
 - Sharsheret Forest - near Neivot (active recreation area, playground facilities, outdoor grills, water fountains)
 - Ofakim Park - near Ofakim (active recreation facilities, outdoor grills, picnic tables, grass lawns)
 - Eshkol National Park - between Ofakim and Maon Junction (grass lawns, date palms, shade, scenic lookout, fresh water spring and swimming pools, washroom facilities, picnic tables, outdoor grills, entrance fee)
 - Lev Grove - near BeerSheva (active recreation area, picnic and washroom facilities, water fountains)
 - Yatir Forest - some 10 km. northwards along a paved road intersecting with the Shkelon Junction-Arad highway (no. 31) at Yatir Junction (picnic area, scenic car routes, playground facilities, picnic tables, outdoor grills, water fountains)
 - Arad Park - west of Arad (active recreation area, playground facilities, outdoor grills)
 - Ben Gurion Park - near Dimona (adventure playground facilities, picnic tables, outdoor grills, water fountains)
 - Yerusham Park - near Yerusham (lake, picnic tables)
 - HaRo'i Recreation Area - near Kibbutz Sde Boker (picnic tables, water fountains, playground and washroom facilities)
 - Mitzpeh Ramon Picnic Area - east of the entrance to Mitzpeh Ramon (picnic tables, water fountains)
 - Thama Valley Park - in the southern Arava near the defunct Timna copper mines (visitors' information center, scenic car routes, archaeological sites, ancient rock drawings, picnic areas, man-made lake, entrance fee)

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT TO ALL EL AL PASSENGERS

Avoid standing in line at Ben Gurion Airport. Take advantage of EL AL's Advance Check-In Service!

EL AL passengers departing on Thursday night, April 4, 1996, are invited to hand in their luggage at one of EL AL's Advance Check-In Terminals on Wednesday night, April 3, 1996, the eve of the holiday. Upon arrival at the airport on Thursday night, you can proceed directly to passport control.

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Tel-Aviv: EL AL Town Terminal, Arlozoroff Street, next to the Railway Station. Tel: 03-6917198/9, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Jerusalem: EL AL Terminal, Center 1 Mall, 49 Yermiyahu Street, corner of Jaffa Street. Tel: 02-383166, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Haifa: EL AL Terminal, 6 Hanamul Street. Tel: 04-8677036, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon.

For flights departing on Friday, April 5, 1996, our Advance Check-In Terminals will be open right after the end of the holiday on Thursday evening, April 4, 1996.

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Islamic Movement may be on verge of a split

THE fundamentalist Islamic Movement could be on the verge of a split over its historic decision to participate in the Knesset elections, according to Dr. Elie Rekhess, director of the program on Arab politics in Israel at Tel Aviv University.

He said there appears to be growing opposition to the move, on doctrinal grounds, from radical elements within the movement.

He noted that Umm el-Fahm Mayor Sheikh Raed Salah and Sheikh Kamal Khatib of Kafir Kanna were quoted in a recent front page article in the movement's own newspaper *Sawt al-Haqq* as saying they no longer see themselves committed to any resolution to enter the Knesset race.

"In their joint statement they speak about the 'former framework' of the movement, which in their eyes has crossed the red line.

DAVID RUDGE

and they call on followers to reunite around the 'mother' movement," Rekhess said.

"The red lines that have been crossed in the eyes of Salah and Khatib are the negotiations being held with the parties headed by MK Abdul Wahab Darawshe and Dr. Ahmed Tibi and the reputed call by Islamic Movement moderates to support a particular candidate in the premiership elections, in this case Shimon Peres.

"The hardliners, in an attempt to maintain the unity of the movement, have until now shown a willingness to accept a unified Arab list headed by a member of the movement, which would include other Arab parties such as that headed by Darawshe.

"They oppose the idea of joining forces with Tibi's party, how-

ever, because of his close association with Yasser Arafat, and what they say are his too close ties with the Israeli establishment."

Rekhess noted that the radicals had boycotted a meeting of the Islamic Movement leadership in Dabburiya Sunday night to finalize discussions on participating in the Knesset elections.

"On a doctrinal basis, the hardliners are still opposed to participating in the Knesset elections. They are backed by farwas [religious edicts] issued by senior Moslem clerics in Egypt and Jordan, which vehemently reject even the idea of an Islamic presence in the Knesset because it implies recognition of the state," he said.

"In the next few days, the movement will have to decide whether to carry out its decision to head a unified Arab list and whether there will be a split."

Third Way may give religious candidate No. 4 Knesset list slot

THE Third Way council was expected last night to accept the secretary's recommendation to put a religious candidate in the No. 4 slot on its Knesset list.

The party predicts a religious candidate could attract "knined kippa" voters unhappy with the National Religious Party and bring the party another Knesset seat, thus compensating the candidate who would move from fourth to fifth on the list.

Although the decision to include a religious candidate was taken after the left-of-center Meimad religious movement announced it would not be participating in the elections, the move is seen to be equally motivated by affording a reconciliation with Yehuda Harel, the party's No. 2 on

LIAT COLLINS

the list.

Harel threatened to resign because the internal elections failed to create the list he wanted. The most likely candidate for the religious spot is Eilat resident Prof. Alex Lubotsky, who was promoted by Harel for the elections but ended up sixth on the list, considered an unrealistic position.

The current No. 4 is party director Brig.-Gen. (res.) Uzi Keren. Both Keren and the current No. 5, Maj.-Gen. (res.) Avraham Rotem would drop down the list if the council accepts the recommendation. The two are considered closer to MK Emanuel Zissman than to Harel, who favors Lubotsky. The infighting in the nascent

party reached new heights after the internal elections when Harel accused Zissman of making a deal with Keren and Rotem at the expense of his preferred candidates, Lubotsky and Golan Heights activist Eli Malka, while Zissman was upset at being placed sixth on the list of candidates recommended by the party's electoral committee.

Zissman also demanded a full report on how the final results were reached to check whether Harel is definitely entitled to the No. 2 slot after party leader MK Avigdor Kahalani. Only three points in a complicated voting procedure placed Zissman in the third slot. The council was scheduled to present the results officially at last night's meeting.

Labor to end campaign with massive rally at Rabin Square

MICHAL YUDELMAN

LABOR intends to conclude its campaign with a mass rally at Tel Aviv's Yitzhak Rabin Square on May 27, two days before the election.

The rally will be organized by former Tel Aviv mayor Shlomo Lahat, who founded the People for Peres Association last Friday. Lahat was the initiator and organizer of the November 4 peace rally, at whose finale Rabin was assassinated.

Lahat has already reserved the square for the event, which will be attended by all Labor's leaders and many artists and singers.

Formerly Kikar Malchei Yisrael, the square served as a traditional site for campaign-ending gatherings until Rabin's assassination.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres will address parlor meetings by means of video cassettes, as part of an effort to maintain direct contact with the voters

during the campaign, it was decided by Labor's organization campaign head Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal.

Shahal said that voters will also be able to hear a vocal message from Peres and leave him a message, by dialing a "Telemesser" number.

Labor's campaign, which was officially opened this week, is due to intensify after Pessah with a series of outdoor events, and personal attacks on Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu.

Campaign information head Interior Minister Haim Ramon, who stars in the Likud's campaign stickers with statements he had made against Peres, commented that he pities the Likud if that is all it has on which to base its campaign.

Ramon was referring to stickers quoting Ramon as saying "Peres is talking us to death."

MKs accept pension cut - if ministers will, too

KNESSET Members yesterday agreed to cut their pensions, but only with a big "if" attached.

The House Committee finally adopted the Rosen-Tzvi Report, which would cut MKs' pensions from 4 percent to 2 percent of salary a year for every year served, but made implementation conditional on the Finance Committee cutting the pensions of ministers, judges, and ministry directors-general.

The linkage between the MKs' and ministers' pensions was made by Avraham Poraz (Meretz) and created a

LIAT COLLINS

compromise, allowing the House Committee to adopt the recommendations of the two parts of the report which would raise their wages, but cut the pensions.

Committee chairman Elie Goldschmidt (Labor) said he was disappointed by the decision. "I had hoped the recommendations would have been accepted without any conditions attached. We should be providing a personal example to the public," he said.

"The judges, ministers, and directors-general shouldn't have

had higher pensions to begin with," said Poraz, who is concerned that the ministers will not accept the cut.

Following the solution, Goldschmidt asked Prof. Ariel Rosen-Tzvi to rescind his resignation as head of the committee which spent three years preparing the report.

Rosen-Tzvi resigned when the House Committee refused to accept the report because of the pensions issue. It had accepted the part of the report which grants the MKs a pay hike, but bans them from holding a paid position outside the Knesset.

ABRAHAM RAHMANI

Christian belief central to Easter: the resurrection.

Keith Ward, a professor of divinity at Oxford, told the newspaper that if the report were validated, "I would cease to be a Christian because to me that would invalidate the testimony of the apostles, and without that I wouldn't believe Jesus was of any particular importance."

L.Y. Rahmani, an archaeologist who has cataloged almost all the 1,000 ossuaries found in Israel, termed the BBC's conclusions "absurd." He noted that the names Joseph, Mary, and Jesus were common in antiquity, and that some 10 ossuaries bearing the name of Jesus, whether in Hebrew or Greek variations, have been found over the years. Variations of Miriam, from which Mary is derived, and Joseph are far more common.

"The fact that in this case you have this combination of names in the same tomb is simply a matter of statistics," he said.

As former chief curator of the Department of Antiquities (forerunner of the Antiquities Authority), Rahmani drew up the *Catalog of Ossuaries in the Col-*



Immigrant children enjoy a model seder yesterday at a WIZO day-care center at Kfar Givrol. (Dina Osnayev/Israel Sun)

'IDF must be given free hand to deal with Hizbullah'

DAVID RUDGE

OPPOSITION leaders visited the North yesterday, following Saturday night's Katyusha rocket attacks on the region, and called for the IDF to be given a free hand to deal with Hizbullah.

Likud leader MK Binyamin Netanyahu and the party's primaries winner Yitzhak Mordechai were accompanied by Geshet party head MK David Levy in the meeting with Likud mayors and council chairmen in the North.

The three, who met with Metulla local council chairman Yossi Goldberg, maintained that the IDF had the means and the ability to hit Hizbullah.

"I call on the government to do what is needed and ensure security. Hizbullah and (its leader) Nasrallah should be the ones who are forced to go into bomb shelters night after night and not residents of the North," said Netanyahu.

He maintained that the government was not allowing the army to act freely to change the situation "from one end to another and bring peace and calm to the North." "Instead of appealing to the Americans to beg the Syrians to restrain Hizbullah, I would give the IDF a free hand to act directly against the terrorists," said Netanyahu.

His comments were echoed by Levy, as well as Mordechai who until recently was OC Northern Command. Mordechai said he could not understand why Prime Minister Shimon Peres had not visited the North.

"Instead of the prime minister and the government coming to the northern border and from there threatening Nasrallah, he (Nasrallah) is threatening the residents of Metulla and Kiryat Shmona and is sending them into bomb shelters," said Mordechai.

Reports of Namir's plans to quit Labor denied

MICHAL YUDELMAN

SOURCES close to Labor and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir yesterday denied reports that she had threatened to quit Labor's Knesset list and to resign from the party.

The sources accused Prime Minister Shimon Peres's people of spreading disinformation, in a bid to get rid of her so her slot on the list could be filled by a new immigrant from the former Soviet Union.

Namir last week resigned as head of the pensioners' election campaign to protest the relatively low place she won in the primaries. Namir reportedly accused Peres of unfairly intervening in favor of MK Dalia Itzik, who finished higher.

Namir left for a vacation in Prague after the primaries, and was unavailable for comment.

Minister Yossi Beilin yesterday called on Namir not to resign from Labor's list and to return to direct the pensioners' campaign. Meanwhile, MK Yossi Katz was temporarily appointed acting head of the campaign.

Religious Affairs Minister Shimon Shetreet yesterday held a gathering of supporters and accused the party apparatus of trying to "crush" him in the primaries.

Shetreet, who won the 42nd slot on the list, said he considered the fact that 90,000 people voted for him a great victory, considering the immense pressure from the party leadership not to vote for him.

Southern schools to get air conditioning

Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein has allocated NIS 17 million from his ministry's budget for installing air conditioning in schools in the South.

Almost one third - NIS 5m. - will go to Beersheba, while Ashkelon and Dimona will each receive NIS 2m. and Ashdod NIS 1.5 m. Beduin towns will also get large allocations.

Rubinstein said "life in the classroom will be changed completely. The quality of teaching and the pupils' work will improve immeasurably." *Batsheva Tsur*

Archeologists dismiss BBC program claiming Jesus's ossuary found

THE Christian world should be able to greet Easter next Sunday with its faith in Jesus' resurrection intact, despite a pending BBC broadcast implying that Jesus was not only the son of man, but a father himself.

Israeli archeologists, while avoiding the theological aspects of the story, yesterday dismissed the material evidence offered by the television production.

On Easter Sunday, the BBC's *Heart of the Matter* religious series is scheduled to describe the "discovery" by one of its producers that ossuaries bearing the names of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus had been found in a family tomb in

Jerusalem in 1980. The producer, Chris Mann, found the ossuaries in a warehouse maintained by the Antiquities Authority.

The *Sunday Times* took the report seriously enough to run it on its front page this week. It quotes the reporter who will present the findings on television, Joan Bakewell, as saying: "We stood dumbfounded by the sensational nature of what was before our eyes."

The *Times*, in its story, spells out the implications of the BBC broadcast. "If the burial caskets, known as ossuaries, contain the remains of Christ and his family, they would cast doubt on the

lection of the State of Israel. The catalog includes the ossuaries cited on in the BBC broadcast and was apparently employed by the British researchers in tracking them down.

The ossuaries in question were among nine found in an East Tal-piot family burial tomb by archeologist Yossi Gat in 1980, and were routinely reported on in the Hebrew professional journal, *Archeological News*, without any attempt to link them to the New Testament.

One of the ossuaries is inscribed in Greek: "Miriamne who is also called Mara." These, said Rahmani, were among the numerous variations of Miriam. Another inscription, in Aramaic, is Yeshua bar Yehosef, or Jesus the son of Joseph. Rahmani noted that there are at least five ossuaries with different Hebrew versions of Jesus and five with Greek versions.

Another ossuary in the tomb bears the name of Yehuda bar Yeshua, or Judah, son of Jesus. The BBC report raises the possibility that a second ossuary in the tomb inscribed with a Greek version of Miriam contained the bones of Mary Magdalene. Rahmani, however, believes

these idle speculations, at best. "What we have is a tomb containing the remains of three generations of a nice Jerusalem family," said Rahmani. "I'm afraid there is no story here."

Most of the ossuaries uncovered in Israel date from around 20 BCE to 70 CE. Burial custom during this period, particularly in Jerusalem, involved laying out the body in a tomb and returning a year or so later to gather the bones into a stone container, which was often carved with decorations and the name of the deceased. The inscriptions were in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek, which were freely interchanged by inhabitants of the country during that period.

Father Jerry Murphy-O'Connor, professor of New Testament at the Ecole Biblique in Jerusalem, likewise dismissed the BBC claim as "fantiful." While Mary is known from the New Testament to have been buried in Jerusalem, the tomb was a mile across town in Gethsemane, he noted, while Joseph is presumed to have been buried in the Galilee.

As for Jesus, despite the BBC, Christians have no reason not to remain firm in their faith that his burial was of limited duration.

Kibbutz Shamir extends deepest condolences to Dvora Shiloach and family on the death of her father
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Meet your friends at the Post Pessah Fair

Britain proposes phased cow slaughter

LUXEMBOURG (Reuters) - Britain proposed yesterday it should slaughter and burn four million cattle over the next five to six years to eradicate deadly mad cow disease and get British beef back on European menus.

Under the proposal introduced by British Agriculture Minister Douglas Hogg at an emergency meeting of European Union farm ministers, all animals aged over 30 months would be killed and their carcasses incinerated, a British official said, adding that this would involve destroying up to 15,000 animals a week.

"This proposal goes far beyond what the veterinarians suggested. They said the meat could still be sold for low grade products as long as it had been boned," the British official told reporters.

Hogg also proposed that the EU institute a buy-in policy to take the animals out of circulation, to be 80 percent financed by the EU and 20 percent by Britain. There was no immediate response from Hogg's 14 EU counterparts.

Hogg also argued strongly that, in the light of these proposed measures, the ban on exports of British beef declared by the European Commission last Wednesday should be lifted as soon as possible, the official said.

The official said no specific sums of money had been discussed, but French Farm Minister Philippe Vasseur said earlier it could be in the region of 30 billion French francs (\$6 billion), and hinted that some of this at least could come from the British budget rebate.

The British proposals are aimed at restoring consumer confidence in eating beef which was shattered when Britain announced almost two weeks ago that there was a likely link between mad cow disease, bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), and its fatal human equivalent, Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD).

"The first thing to do to recuperate the trust and confidence of consumers is to eradicate BSE," Spanish Farm Minister Luis Arienza told reporters as he arrived for the meeting, which is expected to last long into the night.

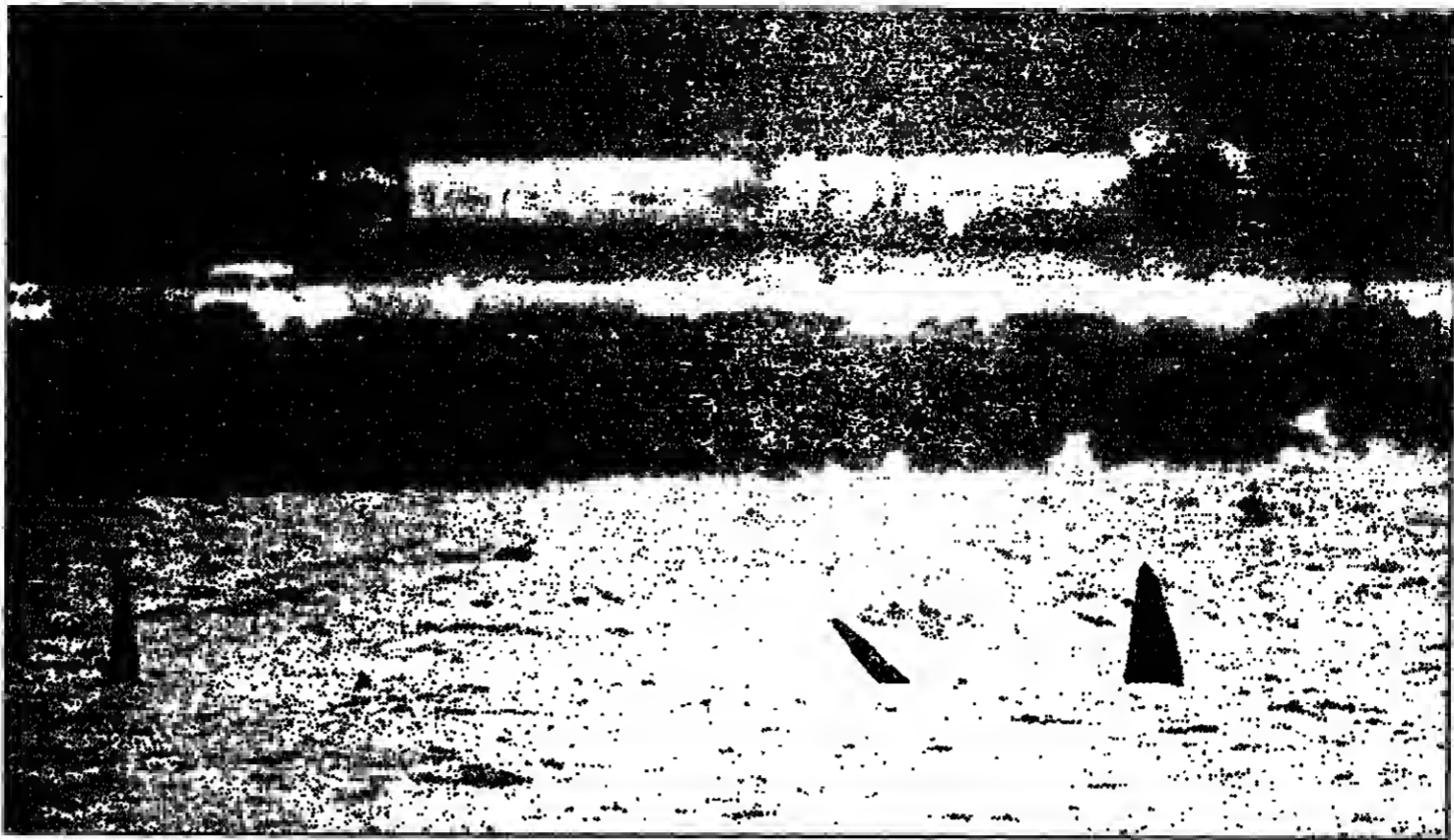
Vasseur, whose country was among the first to ban British beef, urged concerted EU action.

Countries around Europe and in many other parts of the world rushed to ban British beef and beef products and the European Commission, the EU's executive body, took veterinary advice and banned all British beef exports.

Sales of both British and European beef plunged, forcing the 15-nation bloc's governments to confront what had only days before been seen as an almost entirely British problem.

German Agriculture Minister Jochen Borchert said before leaving for the meeting the EU should provide the same funds to pay for the slaughter of British cows to tackle mad cow disease as it had paid to tackle swine fever in Germany. But he said there was no question of lifting the export ban immediately.

Spain's Arienza said: "They have to kill animals and also to take other measures to avoid that BSE expands to other areas."



Commuters pass fake whale fins that were set up as an April Fool's Day prank in Wellington, New Zealand yesterday. Police, navy and conservationists were all taken in by radio reports that the whales were real, but they turned out to be rubber dorsal fins attached to wooden blocks and anchored to the sea bed. (Reuters)

UN targets US immigration bills

GENEVA (Reuters) - The United Nations refugee agency, making a rare foray into US domestic politics, said yesterday it would lobby "at the highest levels" against planned US laws that could deny asylum to genuine refugees.

A senior official of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said bills before the US Congress to curb illegal immigration could violate the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 additional protocol, to which the United States is a party.

"Our concern is that we will have people removed to unsafe situations," the official, Dennis McNamara, said. "It's an issue that we would pursue at the highest levels of the US government in the coming weeks and months."

McNamara, a New Zealander who heads the UNHCR's refugee protection division, told a news briefing that he was in Washington last week to tell members of Congress and administration officials about the UNHCR's concern.

The House of Representatives has already adopted its version of the bill and it is due to go before the Senate in mid-April.

The proposals to which the UNHCR objects are part of far wider legislation to curb illegal immigration.

One section would allow immigration officials to deny potential refugees a judicial asylum hearing if they did not establish in a preliminary interview a "credible fear of persecution" if they were forced to return home.

Asylum seekers must establish such a fear already if they want to be released from detention, but they receive a hearing even if they fail to do so.

The Senate and House bills also permit the US attorney general to summarily exclude individuals arriving in the United States with either falsified documents or no documents at all - the UNHCR says many refugees are forced to falsify identity papers in order to flee repressive situations at home.

McNamara said the proposals denied due process to asylum seekers - "It's one strike and you're out" - and could contravene the Refugee Convention. "If you're going to screen people out, you can't raise the threshold."

US hopes fighting over in Chechnya

US national security adviser Anthony Lake expressed hope yesterday that the latest fighting in Chechnya will be a prelude to peace between Russia and the breakaway republic.

"We hope this is the last shot, not the opening of a new round of fighting," Lake told a US-Russian trade group.

Lake also said the United States supports Russian President Boris Yeltsin efforts to end the fighting.

Lake also said of previous efforts to quell the Chechen separatists, "We oppose the means the Russians have been using" but support the country's boundaries. He said they should not be changed by force.

Criticizing the rebels, he said, "We oppose terrorism in all its forms," but he also said Moscow's "widespread and indiscriminate use of force has spilled far too much innocent blood and eroded support for Russia."

President Clinton is due to meet with Yeltsin in Moscow in three weeks.

Lake said, "We always expected Russia's journey to freedom to be uneven." But he said the administration would maintain a steady supportive stance "staying engaged with Russia" in what is "a new age of possibility but also of peril."

He also reaffirmed US opposition to the Communist-dominated parliament's vote last month to bring back the old Soviet Union.

"Let me emphasize," Lake said, "we support the millions of former Soviet citizens in all those nations who broke the chain of tyranny in 1991.

They have chosen freedom and their will must be respected. President Yeltsin believes that too, and so do the vast majority of Russians."

The Russian military said they halted combat operations in Chechnya just after midnight yesterday as ordered by Yeltsin, but rebels showed no sign of wanting peace.

Gen. Vyacheslav Tikhomirov, commander of Russian operations in Chechnya, said he had given the cease-fire order to federal troops according to Yeltsin's peace plan that was announced Sunday.

The Interfax news agency reported yesterday that Chechen rebels attacked a column of federal troops near the guerrilla stronghold of Vedeno, killing 28 Russian servicemen and wounding 75 on Sunday. Earlier, the agency said the incident occurred yesterday after the Russians ceased combat operations.

The Russian defense and interior ministries in Moscow said they had no information on the attack.

Chechen forces are concentrated in the southeastern part of Chechnya and are unlikely to stop fighting as long as Russian troops are in their homeland.

Russia also seemed unlikely to halt operations, and Tikhomirov said Russian troops reserved the right to open fire if attacked by rebel forces.

He said so-called "special operations" would be carried out against the rebels and that "the fighting with the gangsters will continue."

Yeltsin's credibility is on the line, with the announcement of the plan to end the war aimed at improving his chances for victory in June presidential elections.

The plan Yeltsin announced included the order to cease combat operations, a step-by-step troop withdrawal, new elections, and negotiations on Chechnya's status within the Russian federation.

The Kremlin announced that Yeltsin signed a decree to enforce the plan yesterday.

Tikhomirov told reporters in the Chechen capital Grozny yesterday morning that no troop pullout was planned right away. "The troops will stay where they are and conduct negotiations on peace and accord," he said.

Yeltsin's plan stopped short of meeting rebel leader Dzhokhar Dudayev's main demands: full independence for Chechnya and a complete withdrawal of Russian troops from the breakaway republic.

"Without doubt, we will not put up with terrorist acts and we will respond to them adequately," Yeltsin said in taped remarks aired on nationwide television.

Yeltsin's plan did not appear to differ greatly from peace initiatives announced throughout the 16-month war, and there was no sign the rebels intended to lay down their guns.

Lawmakers of all political stripes were quick to criticize the plan, particularly for its timing. Just our little joke.

Croat general arrives to face war crimes charges

AMSTERDAM (Reuters) - Bosnian Croat war crimes suspect General Tihomir Blaskic arrived in the Netherlands yesterday to surrender himself to the UN tribunal in The Hague.

Blaskic arrived in Amsterdam aboard a commercial flight from Zagreb and reporters were not allowed near his plane.

He was met by plain-clothes Dutch police and was driven away in a convoy of Mercedes cars.

A man who identified himself as Blaskic's lawyer said the general would spend the night at a private house and would present himself to the tribunal today.

But a tribunal official said Blaskic was expected to spend the night at the tribunal's detention unit at Scheveningen prison on the outskirts of The Hague.

Blaskic was indicted last year in connection with the "ethnic cleansing" of Muslims in the Lasva Valley area of central Bosnia from May 1992 to May 1993.

He was commander of the Bosnian Croat militia in the area at the time and the tribunal said the operation had destroyed or driven away the area's entire Muslim population.

Blaskic and five other Bosnian Croat leaders were charged with various atrocities, including an alleged massacre at the village of Ahmici, near Vitez.

Ahmici was virtually destroyed by Croats in April 1993. Scores of Muslim civilians were killed, including children who appeared to have been burned alive.

One of Blaskic's lawyers, Zvonimir Hodak, told reporters in Zagreb before boarding the plane for The Hague that the general expected to be back in Croatia by Easter.

"I absolutely think that he can be acquitted. If we did not think we have a real chance, we would not be going there voluntarily," he said.

Blaskic's wife, who recently gave birth to a son, wept as he left her at Zagreb airport accompanied by four bodyguards and a group of friends.

His surrender followed a week of negotiations about conditions for his detention and was clinched in talks between US Defense Secretary William Perry and Croatian Defense Minister Gojko Susdak.

Western governments have been pressing Croatia and Serbia to turn over those indicted by the tribunal, as they pledged to do under the Dayton peace accords agreed last November.

15 drown after sailboat overturns

PORT-AU-PRINCE (AP) - A sailboat carrying about 50 people overturned in the Caribbean Sea, and at least 15 people drowned, a survivor said yesterday.

The accident by Jeansly Jean-Baptiste followed a report by a Haitian legislator who said a ferry sank off Haiti and more than 200 were feared dead.

Jean-Baptiste told Radio Nationale that the sailboat *L'Avron*, which operated as a ferry, sank Thursday off Tiburon, an isolated town 225 km west of the capital, Port-au-Prince.

He said the sailboat left the western town of Anse D'Hainault and was bound for Les Cayes to the south when it capsized. He said he didn't know what caused the boat to overturn.

His interview with Radio Nationale was conducted broadcast yesterday.

Ronald Jaboin, a spokesman with the government maritime service, said investigators sent to the area to investigate a reported shipwreck were not expected to return until today. He said he had no other information.

Rep. Luc Lindor had said in an earlier radio broadcast on Radio Haiti-Inter that the ferry was carrying about 300 people, and more than 200 were feared dead. He said the vessel left the peninsular town of Cap des Irois and was bound for Port-au-Prince.

We print it; it must be true

DID YOU catch these items in yesterday's foreign news reports? Researchers for a BBC religious program have found caskets from a first century tomb near Jerusalem that bear the names Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

The French city of Mootauban caused a storm of controversy by offering to build an animal shelter for mad British cows.

New Zealand police and commuters were caught in a gridlock when a group of killer whales were stranded near Wellington's inter-island ferry terminal, bringing traffic to a near halt.

A man was arrested for lying to South Africa's Truth Commission.

Britain's Queen Elizabeth launched a royal Internet site.

Princess Diana has agreed to fly commercial economy class.

A Russian factory is producing diamond-studded grenades for nouveau-riche mafiosi.

Belgium cancelled the change to summer time.

British military forces and the Chinese People's Liberation Army for the first time played together in a joint rugby team.

If you read it, it must be true. Or it must be April Fool's Day.

April Fool's Day is thought to date back as far as the Roman Empire and may stem from the festival of Cerialia. In Roman legend, Pluto carried Proserpina off from the Elysian meadows, leaving her mother Ceres on a fools errand, chasing only the echo of her daughter's pleas for help.

In India, the tricks are played at the Holi festival on March 31. In France, victims of Fools Day pranks are called *un poisson d'avril* (April fish). In Scotland they are a *gowk* (cuckoo).

Yesterday, gullible Britons learned that Walt Disney has purchased Hadrian's Wall, built by the Romans to separate Scotland from England.

Germans read that passengers on Lufthansa airline could soon be seated next to a potential lover as the airline's booking system develops a sideline in computer dating.

An outraged feminist (no sense of humor) told *Die Welt* the airline should be renamed *Lushansa*.

Russia's usually staid *Iur-Tass* news agency reported the country's flourishing gangster class can now send their enemies to oblivion in style.

It said a factory was turning out diamond-studded grenades that would leave victims "in a sea of sparkling gems, rather than in a pool of blood."

Belgium's *L'Avion* newspaper told readers the European Union summit in Turin had decided to cancel summer time - which came into effect on Saturday night - and told Belgians to put their watches back one hour. A "news release" emanating from US House Speaker Newt Gingrich's press room said he has become a vegetarian. "Don't have a cow, it's just a life style change," the release quoted Gingrich as saying, adding that his decision was prompted by the furor over Mad Cow disease.

Britain's *Guardian* newspaper claimed the queen's cyberspace debut included an interactive tour of Buckingham Palace and a quiz about the royal family.

The royal web site also gave virtual subjects the chance to swear an oath of loyalty to an "online audience" with the monarch.

Some April Fools gags backfired.

A newspaper in southwestern France was deluged with angry phone calls after saying Mootauban had agreed to build a shelter for British cattle suffering from mad cow disease.

New Zealand police and commuters were furious when the "group of stranded killer whales" which halted traffic turned out to be rubber dorsal fins attached to wooden blocks.

And a Belgian newspaper had to apologize to readers after itself falling victim to a spoof and carrying a story inviting veterans of pro-Nazi war groups, former volunteers to the Eastern front and young rightists to apply for free tickets to a Verdi concert.

However, the Associated Press pointed out that in nature "it's April Fools' Day every day."

Quoting David Olson, a scientist for the World Wildlife Fund, the AP cited a large red flower that mimics the look and smell of rotting flesh, a clever spider that tricks other spider species by playing their love songs and a hungry hawk imitates the flight of a harmless buzzard.

"In the natural world, what you see may not be what you get," Olson said.

By the way - not in *The Jerusalem Post* either.

Take that list at the start of this piece. Three of the items were real reports in yesterday's news:

The Jesus, Mary, Joseph caskets controversy. (We think)

Nzuzo Maitiwane appeared to a Cape Town court charged with lying to the Truth Commission on apartheid-era crimes.

The joint Chinese-British army team lost 30-7 in a Hong Kong rugby friendly with the visiting British Kidderminster team.

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The uses of closure

THE closure, by far the most severe and airtight "blockade" ever imposed on the Arab population of the territories, is unquestionably cruel and unjust. It causes suffering to the young, the elderly, the sick, and the infirm. And by increasing bitterness and aggravating hatred it is probably creating a new generation of driven terrorists.

But it also seems to alleviate the immediate terrorist danger. And Israelis must wonder whether it makes sense to let Palestinian laborers work in Israel if it means "taking greater security risks," as Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak told the cabinet on Sunday.

The purpose of the closure is not - nor should it be - to inflict collective punishment on the Palestinian population. That is why the appointment of a ministerial team to examine ways to ease the closure is a welcome move. It is expected to present its recommendations by tomorrow, and it will undoubtedly ensure that the Palestinian population will regularly receive medicines, food staples, and essential construction materials, and that Palestinians will be able to export agricultural produce and other goods, as long as security precautions are strictly observed. It will also allow the carefully scrutinized passage of older workers with a clean record into Israel.

But focusing on the closure, which is what the PLO and its allies want the world to do, must not divert attention from the reason for imposing it. Nor should Israel be tempted again to let wishful thinking obscure facts. Despite American assurances that Yasser Arafat is doing his utmost against Hamas and Islamic Jihad terrorism - assurances bolstered by rosy descriptions of his efforts by such PLO boosters as Americans for Peace Now - the fact is that the Palestinian Authority is doing very little against the terrorist infrastructure.

Of the 13 top Hamas terrorists whose detention Israel has requested, the PA has arrested only seven, one of whom it is reported to have already released. The roundup of suspects has been highly publicized, but it has failed to produce the six most notorious terrorists in the group, including Mohammed Dief, with whom chief of PA security Mohammed Dahlan was

negotiating during the week of the suicide bombings, and Hassan Salameh.

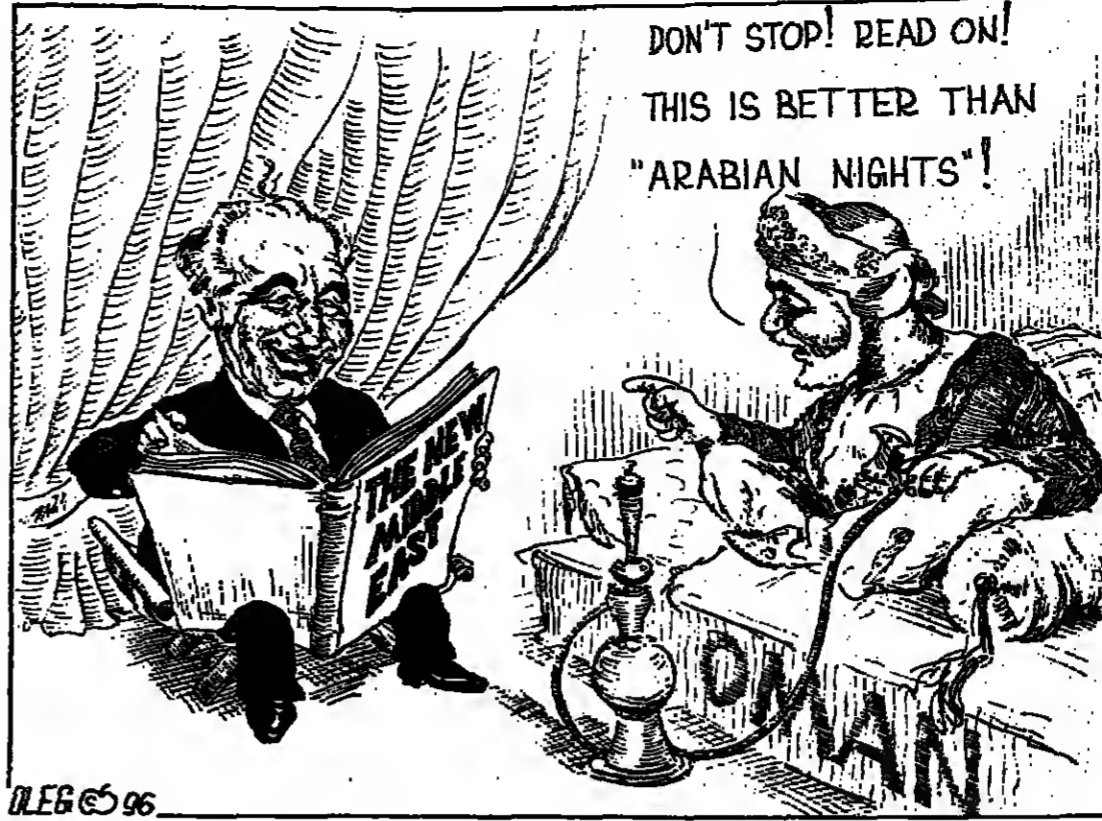
Nor does the large number of arrests indicate their value. According to the Palestinian Center for Human Rights, many of the 400 detained in Gaza were arrested not because of evidence of involvement in terrorist activity, but because of their political affiliation and opinions. Many others were merely family members of suspects who could not be found.

Perhaps the most disturbing news is that there is greater cooperation between Hamas and the PLO than even the most cynical observers have believed. Based on documents found by Israeli security forces during the roundup of Hamas operatives in Judea and Samaria and on pronouncements by Islamist leaders, civil administration adviser on Arab affairs Brig.-Gen. Ephraim Lavi and Hamas expert Brig.-Gen. Udi Levy have reported to security and intelligence agencies that the current Israeli perception of Hamas methods and aims is erroneous.

Hamas has reconciled itself to the PLO's strategy of phases, says the report. (This is a phased conquest of Israel. It stipulates the acquisition of as much territory as possible in peaceful ways, then using it as a staging area for the continuation of the armed struggle, and finally drawing in the Arab world to an all-out war against a smaller and more vulnerable Israel.)

According to Lavi and Levy, the Islamic radicals believe that Israeli withdrawal from the territories must be encouraged, for it enables them to develop the "armed struggle" infrastructure and stage terrorist attacks against Israel more easily. Hamas sees eye to eye with the PLO on what constitutes the Palestinian national interest, and on the need to remove Israel from the territories. The Islamic organization is also eager to avoid clashes with the PLO.

If any more proof were needed of the futility in relying on Arafat to solve the problem of Islamic terrorism for Israel, this report provides it. And if continuing the closure, rather than such reliance, is the only way to render terrorist attacks less likely, all other considerations must be deemed irrelevant.



Ripples of a bomb

MICHAEL M. COHEN

The poet Yehuda Amichai began one of his poems with: "The diameter of the bomb was thirty centimeters and the diameter of its effective range about seven meters." Effortlessly he then goes on to describe how the effect of the bomb ripples to "the distant shores of a country far across the sea," until it "includes the entire world in a circle." Within that circle I recently and painfully discovered my son, not yet four-years-old.

Up until the recent reign of terror in Israel, Rot was so excited about us going to Israel next year when I will be on sabbatical leave from my position as a rabbi in Vermont. We would talk about how the El Al plane had his own television screen on every seat so he could watch movies and cartoons all the way to Israel! I told him about the *mafleret* in Jerusalem, the slide that comes out of the mouth of a huge monster. And we talked about going to Mahane Yehuda to buy food and the best, sweetest *halva* in the world for Shabbat. He and I talked about how on Shabbat we would walk together to synagogues on the streets of Jerusalem, and that he would be able to sit with us during services since I would not have to lead them.

Then came the bombs and the Egged buses whizzed into crematoriums on trains in the heart of the Jewish nation. We usually try and shield Rot and his younger sister Shirah from images on television that we don't think they should see. But for some reason this time I didn't, as the images of the twisted bodies, the dead and the injured filled the screen. Perhaps, in the deepest levels of my psyche I thought he should know what I was getting him into. I think: Am I Abraham bringing my son to Mount Moriah?

My wife Alison and I first noticed him acting out, by not wanting to be left at his preschool that he usually loves to attend. My suspicions that it had to do with the bombings were confirmed when the next night he was too scared to go to sleep and cried all night long and began to ask about the bombings.

"Why do people do them?" he asked me. I wanted to keep things simple, so I began by explaining that there are people who don't want peace. He then asked, "Why do people hate the Jews?" My heart sank. Not yet four, and he

I think: Am I Abraham bringing my son to Mount Moriah?

was already having to come to grips with antisemitism. I thought about a quote of the late Jerzy Kosinski when he spoke about the preoccupation many have with the Holocaust: "It will obliterate even more my flesh in history. It will strip me down to a dead body. It will make young Jews and non-Jews alike horrified at the very idea of being a Jew. Being Jewish will become then even more synonymous with death and destruction."

THE PSYCHOLOGICAL scars of antisemitism and the Holocaust have taken their toll on the souls of many of our people. The internalized oppression, the rejection of being Jewish, is part of the desire to assimilate. And now my own son, who loves Shabbat, who loves Hanukkah, who loves looking for the *afikomen* at Passah, would he too be scared away?

I am angry at myself for not flipping the channel on the television set. I try to explain to him that just like in *The Wizard of Oz*, *Peter Pan* and the *Scroll of Esther*, there are bad people in this world, and that they are eventually defeated.

We are taught in our tradition (Avot D'Rabbi Nathan 23), "Who is the greatest hero? The individual who changes his or her enemy into a friend." We need more stories with such heroes to be able to tell our children.

A week or so later, as we were driving in the car, we heard over the radio that President Bill Clinton was in Israel. Rot was excited and I believe reassured that Clinton was there, since he felt a connection to the president and his plane - the president's office sent him a picture of AirForce One after Rot saw them two years ago in Albany.

He said it would be fun to go to Israel in AirForce One. I'm not sure what Clinton would think of that, but it was good to hear him talk again about going to Israel next year. I am able to again look forward to him saying *Yishma haba a b'yerushalayim tomorrow night*.

The writer is president of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association.

An uneconomic war

DANIEL DORON

Politicians and generals have long asserted that "terrorism has no military solution." And yet they recently declared an all-out war on Hamas. But if a war could have helped, it should have been pursued long before so many people were killed.

And, if "an all-out war," then attack Hamas headquarters in Gaza instead of imposing ineffectual closures, punishing hundreds of thousands of Arab workers.

In Lebanon, the government tried to curb Hizbullah by bombing southern Lebanese villages. Hizbullah, acting as Syria's bestest, was not impressed, but thousands of Lebanese villagers turned from passive into active Hizbullah supporters.

The same is inevitable in the territories. Arafat, whose regime is autocratic and not very responsive to pressure from below, is excellent at redirecting unrest against Israel. The closures can only increase support for terrorism.

With closures ineffective, our government, lenient toward the culpable but tough against the innocent, goes for total separation between Jews and Arabs.

The government has not imposed on terrorist leaders the heavy costs that would make terror counterproductive and, for political reasons, it even accepts the many casualties inflicted by Hizbullah. It has refrained from making Arafat destroy the Hamas infrastructure prior to any significant withdrawal in the territories. Neither has it demanded that Assad curb Hizbullah and remove terrorist headquarters from Damascus as a precondition for peace talks. Even King Hussein of Jordan has not been pressured to remove Hamas bases from Amman.

Nor has Israel done much to press the US to take effective steps against US "charitable organizations" raising funds for Hamas or to do more to convince its European partners and Saudi and Gulf state allies to take similar steps. Worse, the government does not do its utmost against US and European firms which help rogue states acquire weapons of mass destruction.

When the government does protest, it does so in a routine manner that would support peace and reconciliation. Their failure to support peace offers the "dividend" of better living conditions for most Palestinian Arabs is no less serious than their failure to fight terrorism effectively or to ensure a modicum of security for Israelis.

business as usual. Instead of fighting an all-out war against terrorism, the government imposes ineffectual closures, which may quieten the public, but only serves to increase support for terrorism in the long run. It seems that to secure support for the Oslo "peace process," the end justifies any means, including turning the peace process into one of increased hatred.

Unfortunately, the Oslo agree-

If we think we can let our neighbors starve behind impregnable walls, we are in for a rude surprise

ments failed to create conditions that would support peace and reconciliation. Their failure to support peace offers the "dividend" of better living conditions for most Palestinian Arabs is no less serious than their failure to fight terrorism effectively or to ensure a modicum of security for Israelis.

THE two, in fact, are interrelated, since terrorism creates the instability that stops economic development and the lack of economic advancement increases support for terrorism.

Simply raising living standards cannot resolve the intractable national and religious conflicts between Arabs and Jews. Yet, unless Arabs attain a reasonable standard of living, there is little hope of mitigating or gradually resolving the conflicts. Everyone speaks about the need for economic growth in the territories, but our government does little to facilitate it.

On the contrary, by helping provide hundreds of millions of dollars in foreign aid through the Palestinian Authority, Israel assists in concentrating in its hands exces-

sive economic power. This strengthens its dictatorial political rule, resulting in an even more centralized and corrupt regime. Lacking most legal constraints, institutions and traditions that create checks and balances, the PA is coming to resemble most Middle East governments. They are all saddled with bloated public sectors, nepotism and corruption, thus increasing the gap between rich and poor, fomenting social unrest and encouraging extremism and fanaticism.

Despite fantasies about Palestinians working in Europe, the territories' economy will remain interwoven with Israel's for the foreseeable future. Almost three decades of dependency cannot be undone overnight. But instead of utilizing this dependency as leverage for mutually beneficial economic development, the Israeli government follows a short-sighted protectionist policy for the sake of our harmful monopolies.

Both Israel and the Arabs could benefit from the development of common markets. For instance, if we had a unified market, we must be free to move our labor and capital. Arabs can then be employed at home, instead of traveling to Israel. If this means that some defunct industries must go, so be it, as they no longer provide adequate employment for Israelis. Calling for "total separation" and the erection of Chinese walls ignores the fact that Jews and Arabs inhabit one house with integrated water, sewage and electrical systems.

At the moment, we are facilitating the subjection of our neighbors to a dictatorial, oppressive and economically backward regime (elected "democratically"). If we think we can let our neighbors starve behind impregnable walls, while our children go roaming in the Andes, and we enjoy the good life in the Sheikim taverns, we are in for a rude surprise.

The writer is the director of the Israel Center for Social and Economic progress, a public-policy think tank.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PIE-IN-THE-SKY NAIFS

Sir, - Moshe Kohn's interesting article of March 15 opened by stating that in 1940 he was a 17-year-old freshman student at City College of New York, and that the campus was strongly left-orientated at that time. It jarred my own memory, for at that very same time, I was an 18-year-old freshman student at Brooklyn College, where the campus was also strongly left-orientated. Fate ordained that both of us would end up later as citizens of Israel. Kohn and I had one other thing in common: In 1940, we were confronted with the lack of understanding of many American Jews, who ignored the danger signals to themselves and to their people or were actually unaware that it was a perilous time for civilization in general and for Jews in particular. The cream of the crop of students at Brooklyn College, the volatile social-science-oriented far-leftists for whom the Word from Moscow was sacrosanct, were in the forefront of those who disregarded the Nazi menace.

Possibly the most traumatic day I can remember in my young life was, when walking along Flatbush Avenue near the college, I came across a band of people carrying placards stating "Keep our boys out of foreign wars!" These were the "American Firebrands," comprising a motley crew of well-meaning, deluded and anxious youths, along with blatant bigots, pro-fascists and the like. But ho! There, on the other side of the avenue peaced Brooklyn College's

best, those same far-left students, carrying their placards: "Keep our boys out of imperialist wars!" They were in the midst of a holy campaign on campus to besmirch as "militarists" and "warmongers" Dr. Harry Gideonse, president of the college, and Professor (Reserve Colonel) Meyer, head of the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC), of the college, both non-Jews who were warning of Nazi intentions. This was the time that Britain, pitifully short of arms, stood alone between Germany and domination of the world. Only American intervention, at first by supplying beleaguered Britain, could have prevented Nazi victory, at which time those same Jewish students would have "gone up the chimney," and what is worse, they would have taken me and mine along with them.

I have never forgiven them for their arrogant and pernicious shortsightedness, because I have yet never seen in print any *mea culpa* by any of them. Are any of my former wayward fellow students shame-faced today? Well, we can see their philosophical heirs today, budding forth, Jews in Israel and in the Diaspora, again ignoring the signals our implacable enemies are clearly sending us, not even in code. Pie-in-the-sky naifs, most of them probably well-meaning, leading each other and all of us in the direction of perdition. Will they ever learn? Professor ROBERT G. KENNETH Rishon Lezion.

THE FALASH MURA

Sir, - The letter of Jack A. Zeller (March 11), under the misleading caption, "The Jews from Ethiopia," contains a mishmash of half-truths, misinformation or disinformation about the religious status of the Falash Mura community. The Chief Rabbinate has yet to issue any official ruling on this issue. A formal rabbinic decision most likely would take into consideration more factors than just the community's current display of conspicuous Jewish practices, such as *kippot* and *tzitzit*, no matter how impressive it might be.

Most of Mr. Zeller's description of Falash Mura behavior in Addis Ababa previously appeared in a *Post* article (February 16) by Mr. Solomon Ezra, an Ethiopian yored living in Aloha, Oregon. The same description is also commonly used by other activists in the "Save the Falash Mura" movement. Both writers are clearly bothered that there are important decision-makers who have yet to reach the same conclusion about the Jewish status of the

Falash Mura as they have. So Mr. Ezra makes innuendoes about the guilty feelings that he believes ought to be disturbing the sleep of some "secular, supposedly more liberal Labor and Meretz cabinet members," including the prime minister, because their position regarding the Falash Mura is not identical to that of his organization, the North American Conference on Ethiopian Jewry. In his letter Mr. Zeller speaks out spuriously invective against one of these ministers, Mr. Yair Tzaban, whose actions are denounced in an unseemly, *ad hominem* manner.

One can only hope that these writers can find legitimate ways to promote their cause without having to mock the Israeli government, or impugn the motives of individuals such as Absorption Minister Tzaban whose manifold efforts on behalf of all Ethiopian immigrants are well known.

HAIM ROSEN, Anthropologist, Ministry of Absorption, Jerusalem.

'EYE ON THE MEDIA'

Sir, - If Mr. Hugh-Jones, the International Editor of *The Economist*, was out an antisemite at the beginning of Mr. Bar-illan's vendetta against him (which I tend to believe) he surely must be an antisemite now. I'd be.

I suggest that you drop your *Eye on the Media* column in the weekend edition of *The Jerusalem Post*. It is a whining column, Diaspora-type, pointing fingers at genuine and not so genuine antisemites in the world's media, crying "They-allege-us-and-obedily-loves-us" in a tone unworthy of a proud, dignified and self-assured Jewish nation.

DR. BERTHOLD WYLER, Jerusalem.

PLEASE, STOP IT!

Sir, - Now that you have had the last, last word in your feud with the editor of the *Economist* - please, Mr. Bar-illan, give it a rest! Your obsession with media bias makes you look ridiculous, makes *The Jerusalem Post* look ridiculous and, by association, makes of all us look ridiculous.

The plain truth is, Mr. Bar-illan, that nothing you can say will change our enemies, or their influence on the public. But, in your inability to differentiate between "antisemitism" and the occasionally justified criticism of disillusioned or despairing friends, you risk converting some of the latter into mortally offended enemies.

Israel will have friends and enemies long after we are all gone, but the only thing that will really matter will still be the morality of our actions in our own eyes. Your *galut*-style paranoia can only degrade the issue to a gutter brawl. Please, Mr. Bar-illan, stop it!

L. YUVAL, Ramat Hasharon.

NO PEACE IN SIGHT

Sir, - Professor Yair Hirschfeld and Professor Ron Fundak, as well as their good friend Yossi Beilin, still have a lot to learn. Before they develop more plans, abandoning areas under Israeli control, they should realize that after whatever concession Israel made to the Palestinians, their only response was: "Yes, but that is not enough." After years of concessions from Israel's side only, the peace we so fervently hoped for is further away than ever before.

M. MARK, Jerusalem.

The failure to reform

The primaries in the Likud are over. As the results emerged, it became increasingly clear how the merger with Tsomet and Gesher distorted the lineup the Likud will present to the electorate.

Although this was to be expected, the actual fact accompli cannot but arouse a certain sense of sadness and surprise. Sadness because the lineup, which gives the small factions disproportionate representation, will enjoy the public support they enjoy, deals a mortal blow to the high hopes many people had of the new electoral system which, they thought, would introduce a real change in the style and quality of the country's political life.

Surprise, because those who dealt the blow were among the most ardent supporters of electoral reform and, indeed, won a great deal of public acclaim for their stand on the issue.

During the previous Knesset's term of office, when public indignation at the unbridled avarice and unprincipled cynicism of politicians reached an unprecedented level, Binyamin Netanyahu showed substantial moral courage (and political acumen) when, in defiance of his party's official stance, he supported legislation for the change of the electoral system. Rafael Eitan also received considerable credit as a result of his party's initiative (led by former MK Yoash Tsidon) to try and transform political standards in Israel.

Changing the electoral system was intended to prevent these unbecoming extortatory tactics,

and unethical.

The signal emitted is unmistakably clear: The faithful and the fair-minded lose out; while the faithless and sly fickle reap the rewards. Thus Netanyahu chose to confer immense benefits on those who abandoned him both on the party level - such as Levy and his followers, and on the ideological level - such as Rafal and his disciples, who never ceased in their tireless effort to find some magic formula that would somehow facilitate their joining the Labor-led coalition.

By contrast he chose to inflict great injury on those who remained loyal to him and his party by pushing them into unrealistically low positions in the Likud's list of Knesset candidates.

Thus unless victory comes "by default" through a major blunder by Labor, this is not (nor should it be) the way the "National Camp" returns to power. Winning an election requires the ability to project moral and ideological superiority, not a doubtful display of unconvincing and artificial "unity." It requires presenting a clear policy, not unavailing manipulations.

By their actions, Netanyahu and Eitan will only increase the Israeli public's sense of cynicism and alienation toward the country's political system, and of distrust and dissatisfaction toward their leaders - the very phenomena that the reform which they championed was designed to abolish.

The writer is a former secretary-general of Tsomet.

The message emanating from the Gesher-Tsomet-Likud merger is one that is blatantly immoral and unethical

tion and the haggling have not been eliminated, only brought forward. Instead of taking place after the elections as in the past, they now take place before them.

ELECTORAL REFORM was also supposed to herald a change of the behavioral norms of the country's politicians by making them more directly accountable for their actions. On this count, the results seem even more disappointing.

For the message emanating from the Gesher-Tsomet-Likud merger is one that is blatantly immoral

and unethical.

The message emanating from the Gesher-Tsomet-Likud merger is one that is blatantly immoral

and unethical.

Handwritten signature: Yehuda Amichai

Choreographer keeps out of step

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

She started dancing "too late" and choreographing "too early." Anat Danieli's successful career, which now includes the foundation of her own company, stands as a rebuke to conventional wisdom.

Even as a child in solidly middle-class Givatayim, Danieli never dreamed of tutus and ballet shoes. "I had no artistic inclinations whatsoever," the 31-year-old said early one recent morning, while sipping chamomile tea with honey at a Tel Aviv cafe.

Her career started as if by chance. But chance, she immediately adds, "is quite philosophical. What is chance and do you help chance happen? Eventually whether things happen to you by chance or whether you do them yourself is quite identical."

Either way, Danieli started dancing at 18 when she joined a friend on her way to a modern-dance class. After her army service, Danieli entered Jerusalem's Rubin

Academy "where I was also asked to create, and that is where all the trouble began. When I started I just did it for the fun, without any specific reason, even before I knew what a pirouette is."

Starting late had its benefits. "My body did not get many of those built-in movements that dancers receive through their childhood. I began fresh and that helped me create and find my own very personal language."

Danieli's first breakthrough came in 1988 when she found herself, for purely personal reasons, in New York. "I'm very fearful by nature. I went to New York with my boyfriend and I know I wouldn't have gone alone. After three months I began to dance there and I also began creating solos for

myself.

"My debut was in a New York loft where several new works were presented one evening. By mere chance the *New York Times* dance critic Jack Anderson was there and mentioned it in the next day's paper. And suddenly that New York myth came alive for me - you know that myth that in the US success can happen really quickly, as if without any effort."

Today Danieli finds it easier to create for other dancers: "I had a certain naivete at the time. I did not really understand what I was doing. Today I do realize that most of my work is very autobiographical, it's very exposing."

When she returned to Israel, Danieli was invited to create two works for the Batsheva Dance

Company and one for the Batsheva Ensemble. "Ohad Naharin had met me in New York and he was very supportive."

Then two years ago a second breakthrough came when Danieli presented her first full-length ensemble opus, *Kisses*.

Danieli does not always find words to express either her feelings or her work. For example she cannot explain her own special dance-movement language and style, of which she is very proud. She also remains speechless when asked to explain the relationship between the dancer in her and the choreographer: "This is a very good question. I never thought about it and I really cannot answer it at the

moment, but do leave the question in."

She also finds it somewhat difficult to define herself: "I am a creator and my attitude towards my work is like sculpting. In my new work I treat air like material. I don't believe that movement happens within a void. We move within a mass of energy."

Danieli's new opus *October* marks the first time that her work is being performed by her newly created company.

"Once you state that you have a company of your own you have to stand behind your declaration," she says. "A company means that I will now work continually, that one work will follow another. It means

that from now on people will hear about the work of the Anat Danieli Dance Company."

In *October*, the choreographer explains, the audience sees pure dance without any gimmicks, without any theatrical mannerisms.

"My dance is much more difficult to watch because it is purer," she says. "It is difficult for those who come to the theater in order to be entertained without being ready to give anything of themselves to the experience. Watching my creations means work in terms of concentration, listening and understanding."

She adds that her work is full of "humor and optimism, although I'm not trying to make people laugh. My work is like a tapestry in which humor, pain and tenderness

are weaved side by side." The title, Danieli explains, was a working title to begin with. "The work was supposed to premiere in October. But slowly I was drawn to the name and many meanings became built in it. I like the sounds of the C and the T, which are very powerful and sharp. And I was also born in October."

Members of the audience should bring a personal interpretation to her work, "as long as they don't think about the October Revolution. I'm not dealing with politics... working in dance, pouring all my energy to create a work of beauty is already a political statement."

October premieres at the Suzanne Dellal Center April 11-13. A few months later *Kisses* will be mounted once again and then Danieli will be ready to move on to her next project: "I really want to do something for children, a work in which I will be able to get a little bit wilder than I usually do."

Tina's still the rocker of ages

NEW RELEASES

TIRZAH AGASSI

Tina Turner deserves a listing in Ripley's *Believe It Or Not*.

Believe it or not: Ex-battered wife and mother of four, just off food stamps with a half-million dollar debt, makes soul-diva comeback at age 43.

And: She is publicly pronounced the woman with "the best legs in the world" as she is hired to glamorize pantyhose... at age 56.

Fifty-six is also a good age to have a hit album. And it seems likely that that's in the works too. For *Wildest Dreams* (NMC) has all the ingredients to go to the top of the charts.

Everything about this album is large, from the lavish production by super-producer Trevor Horn, to backup that includes Sting's singing, and Antonio Banderas's Latin-lover murmurings.

And then of course, there's Tina herself. One can't say that she's breaking new ground here. But she is doing it *right*.

The songs, all written by professionals, with great tracks, really have the catchiest of hooks while also managing to actually say something from the gut - This is the kind of commercialism that delivers.

Bono's composition "Goldeneye," the theme song to the latest James Bond movie, is actually one of the weakest songs on the album. Released with the film several months ago, it was a poor sneak preview of the main event.



Tina Turner doesn't come up with any surprises on 'Wildest Dreams,' but the songs all have great hooks while expressing something from the gut as well.

"Whatever You Want" - the current single - is more indicative of her true power. No one does this kind of all-out affirmative action better than Turner. Yet its wall of sound and soaring vocals are a bit too predictable to warrant its promotion as "A '90s version of 'River Deep Mountain High.'" "On Silent Wings," with the

Sting Cameo, is a beautiful song of regret. You can hear that she takes the lyrics personally. "Missing You" is also sad, but defiant - the kind of song that will play on millions of car radios as lovers who are fed up drive off into the sunset...alone, the point here being that "I ain't Missing You."

"Do What You Do" is a funky stomper. And "Never in Your Wildest Dreams" is the happiest of love songs. This is what Tina is paid for, being the uplifting vision of a woman who has been through it all, yet can still borrow 27-year-old Antonio Banderas from Melanie Griffith to add the track a little extra zap.

"Confidential" is intimate and convincing. Yes, you would tell Tina your secrets.

This lot along with titles like "The Thief of Hearts," "Something Beautiful Remains" and "Unfinished Sympathy" should be enough to keep Turner a marked presence in most of our

lives for the next year or so.

There's nothing here as startling as "Private Dancer" or "What's Love Got To Do With It." Nonetheless, the sheer consistency of the album deserves enthusiastic praise. When it comes to endurance, Turner is the role model of them all.

Ensemble brings Spain's 'Golden Age' gloriously to life

MUCH has been said about the necessity of preserving the musical traditions of the Jewish communities from the Moslem world.

Among the various categories of Jewish music, it is hymnology (music attached to religious poetry, the so-called *Piyutin*) which occupies a special place in the musical repertoire of these communities.

In Morocco, hymnology thrived more than in any other place. Much of its music has been "borrowed" directly from Andalusian music, which developed since the 10th century in the south of Spain.

With the establishment of the Israeli Andalusian Orchestra, under the inspired and inspiring artistic leadership of musicologist and composer/conductor Avraham Eilam-Amizlag, a decisive step has been taken not only to preserve the heritage but to revive it and adapt it to modern requirements.

With Amizlag's transcriptions, this music has been transformed from an oral tradition into notated music which can be played by

every professional musician. The orchestra itself is also unique; it is a Western-style symphony orchestra, strings and woodwinds, plus several violins played in the Arab style, from the knee, four ouds (lutes) and a little percussion.

What we heard were several instrumental "overtures" and various *piyutin*, some written by the great masters of the "golden age" like Ibn Gabirol, Ibn Ezra, Yehuda Halevi and by the much revered, late David Buzaglo.

Almost all *piyutin* are divided into two parts - a slow arhythmic, improvised, extremely florid first part, the "Murwal," and a second metrical and rhythmic part, the *piyut proper*.

At this concert we heard two soloists, the Casablanca-born Haim Luck and the Rabat-born Emil Zrihan. While Luck preserves a strictly traditional, sautey style, Zrihan, being equipped with an absolutely incredible vocal capability, stunned with his sostenuto tones and his richly ornate embellishments moving unimpeded in the register of a countertenor. The beauty of his

CONCERT ROUNDUP

style is overwhelming.

Tel Aviv Museum, March 25
Benjamin Bar-Am

THE good news of the Keshet Habaroque Orchestra's Bach Cantatas Concert, conducted by David Shemer, was the emergence in Cantata No. 159, "Look, we go up to Jerusalem," of a new alto - Russian immigrant Irina Scherbine.

She is a shining young face and voice, with a pleasant timbre, a warm low register, bright high notes, clear and intelligent enunciation, and agreeably smooth voice production.

Soprano Miriam Meltzer had a stern alternative to face - either to let her voice be swallowed up by the too noisy orchestra, in Cantata No. 84, "I am pleased with my fortune," or to shout it down in order to be heard. Both strategies were not crowned with outstanding success.

Bass Renaud Suter, in Cantata No. 203, "Amore traditore," dis-

played remarkable depth and volume, but also a still not quite accomplished voice production.

The orchestra's rendition of Brandenburg Concerto No. 6 gathered refreshing momentum and liveliness in the final movement, after muddy textures, blurred articulation and an infectious drowsiness in the preceding ones. St. Andrew's Scottish Church, Jerusalem, March 25
Ury Eppstein

AMERICAN clarinetist Charles Neidich attracted attention not only by his performance, but also by the partly off-the-beaten-track program he presented in the Guests at the Center series.

His own solo piece *In Memoriam* (1984) was notable for its use of unconventional techniques of double blowing - producing two notes simultaneously - and mute blowing.

Meyer Kupferman's (b. 1927) *Moonflowers*, Buby (1985), another solo, sounded mostly like a jazz-inspired version of a Musical Joke.

Poulenc's Sonata for clarinet and piano, also a rarely performed work, is full of surprises and wit, with an ironic and tongue-in-cheek quality.

As for more conventional repertoire, the rendition of Brahms's Sonata for clarinet and piano op. 120/2 was polished and carefree, brighter than the mood commonly encountered in this work.

In Schumann's *Soiree Pieces* op. 73, better known as *Fantasy Pieces*, on the other hand, some

genuine sensitivity was displayed, as if Neidich considered these too precious to be taken lightly. Some Sarasate violin encores, arranged by Neidich himself for clarinet, were delivered with some entertaining clowning and brilliant virtuosity.

Menahem Wiesenberg was an attentive and reliable partner at the piano. Jerusalem Music Center, Mishkenot Sha'ananim, March 27
Ury Eppstein

Dancers sparkle, even if material doesn't

UNDER the general title Stage for Dance 1996, the Habama Theater in Talpiot, Jerusalem, presented the first of two programs on March 28. Though the choreography of the four works did not always catch the imagination and seemed to concentrate more on movement than meaning, the dozen or so performers bred the thought that Israel has more than its fair share of lovely women who move beautifully whatever they do. There was not a dull dancer among them.

Plais by Aya Israeli and Galit Lis was performed by two girls who used their floor-length braids as ropes with an athletic charm. A little girl sitting on the sidelines having her hair dressed suggested that what was going on was in her dreams.

I Am Queen Esther and You Are A Mandarin by Ora Mirsky and Yafat Pei sought to amuse the audi-

ence with an element of humor and succeeded mightily with some. To the music of a Yiddish ditty - "Mein Scheine Meidele" - two dancers took up a garment from a clump on the floor and appeared in it with two heads.

A Woman and a Half by Smadar Weis was really a solo to which the choreographer in the background added a sort of comment.

Silent Moves by Eyal Sneh was a group dance, its style obviously influenced by Asian dance vocabulary. Its method gave occasion for gentle poses and yet achieved its own quiet momentum.

A REPEAT performance of *Muse* by the new Tel Aviv Dance Theater (March 30) showed by the size of the audience that there is room for this company of well-trained dancers.

The choreographic skills of Boni Pia (director) and Noa Dar certain-

ly made it worthwhile. Dar's duet for a pair of "children" (to judge by their costumes) was ingeniously designed like a set of diversions and variations based on bal-

let practice but modern in technique. Pia's group work was a fascinating mixture of metronomic sound, music and silence.
Dora Sowden

TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15

THIS WEEK		LAST WEEKS ON CHARTS		ARTIST	TITLE
#1	NEW	1	2	RITA SHILOMO ARTZI	COMPILATION TWO
#2	RE	1	2	VARIOUS ARTISTS	RABIN - GOODBYE FRIEND
#3	10	2	3	TAKE THAT	GREATEST HITS
#4	2	3	4	VARIOUS ARTISTS	DREAMLAND
#5	11	6	7	QASIS	WHAT'S THE STORY
#6	4	5	6	NICK CAVE	MURDER BALLADS
#7	12	15	16	SADE	BEST OF
#8	3	4	5	DANNY LITANI	DANNY LITANI
#9	NEW	1	2	ARIK EINSTEIN	TAKE A LITTLE BACK
#10	3	4	5	BEATLES	ANTHOLOGY 2
#11	11	6	7	ABBA	GREATEST HITS
#12	9	14	15	YEHUOKA POLKER	THE CHILD IN YOU
#13	NEW	1	2	NURIT GALRON	THIS PLACE
#14	RE	1	2	STING	FIELDS OF GOLD

Tower Records' top-selling albums for the previous week. RE - re-entry

Actors draw on a blank slate

THEATER REVIEW

NAOMI DOUDAI

BIANCA

By Miriam Kainy, Direction, Micah Lewinsohn, Set, Dror Herronov, Costumes, Orna Smoronsky, Music, Eliaz Lidor, Lighting, Mei Alon, At Beit Lisson Theater, Tel Aviv.

Bianca - Yona Elian-Keshet, Malachi - Nissim Zohar, Yanko - Rafi Tavor, David - Ishai Golan, Atalya - Dana Schrier

When a play lacks elementary backbone, has no cohesion, suspense or even credible characters, the best that even the best of actors can do will do little to save its audiences from utter boredom.

Not even as long-legged, sexy and high-spirited a beauty as Elian-Keshet is able to flesh out this Bianca. An inveterate liar, at the same time a wif washed up on the bloodied fringe of the Israeli-Russian "mafia" connection, Bianca is an inconsistent, incomplete character whose naïvete is incommensurate with her nastiness.

Her halo as crook-cum-survivor is hopelessly tarnished, her *flirtation* with organized crime beyond belief.

Although Bianca's is the central role, the real interest in this production lies in the performances of the male leads. Nissim Zohar plays a strong, sensitive man trapped by a long-lost love with feeling and restraint. Ishai Golan, a young actor of outstanding promise, brings a touching compassion and tenderness to Bianca's tongue-tied Russian-born son.

Rafi Tavor as Yanko, Bianca's local gangland counterpart, supports her with lots of temper and temperament, all thrown away on a crudely contrived, spineless drama that starts out of nothing and goes nowhere.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Tuesday, April 2, 1996

Hapoalim posts record profits

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

BANK Hapoalim reported record high earnings for 1995, a 17.1 percent increase to NIS 672.2 million from NIS 574.1m. in 1994.

Speaking at a press conference yesterday, Hapoalim board chairman Amiram Sivan said the results show for the second consecutive year the highest net profit reported by a company in Israel.

The bank controls 34% of the banking sector.

Net return on equity increased to 10.9% from 10.1% in 1994.

Fourth quarter net profits decreased 32% to NIS 955m. from NIS 1,408.7m. in the previous year.

Key factors which contributed to the annual results included a 32% increase in financing profit to NIS 3.1 billion from NIS 2.35b. The rise resulted from an increase in the volume of credit to the public, deposits from the public, investments in bonds and a rise in interest spreads in most areas of activity.

The improvement in profitability also resulted from the share issue of Koor, a subsidiary, and the sale of shares in Clal and Delek.

In line with the government's restrictions regarding bank holdings of real assets, Hapoalim has reduced its share in Clal to 30.8%, Delek to 25% and in Koor to 72.7%.

The bank is currently working on reducing its holdings in Poalim Investments. The results were hindered by an increase in provision for doubtful debts, a decrease in operating and other income and an increase in operating and other expenses.

The provision for doubtful debts increased 37.1% to NIS 979.9m. from NIS 714.5m. In the fourth quarter alone, provisions reached NIS 388.82m., up 90% from the same quarter in 1994.

Most of the provisions stemmed from provisions for debts to the agriculture sector, which fell to NIS 265.3m. from NIS 276.6m. in the previous year. The bank also set aside a one-time provision concerning the debt of Kupat Holim and provisions to cover debts of small and medium sized businesses.

Commenting on the Procaccia Report, which claims banks overcharged the kibbutzim for debts, Sivan said the bank has examined the accusations and has no objections to the kibbutzim examining their bank accounts.

He said the nine kibbutzim that have already ebeeked their accounts did not reveal any mistakes.

"After Pessah, two additional opinions will be published, in addition to the already published Procaccia, and then, I hope, the issue will no longer be the topic of conversation."

Operating and other income fell 7.2% to NIS 1.9b. from NIS 2.05b. in the previous year. Income from credit card activity rose 32.5% from 1994.

Operating and other expenses increased 8.1% to NIS 3.03m. from NIS 2.8m.

The rise is related to the implementation of the restructuring program of the bank, which the bank intends to continue implementing this year.

Frenkel: Government must significantly cut spending

Jerusalem Post Staff

THE government must "significantly" cut its spending to maintain its achievements in the spheres of inflation, growth and employment, and publicly commit itself to long-term macro-economic goals, Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel said yesterday while presenting the central bank's annual report.

A devaluation might be a natural market reaction to budgetary cuts, said Frenkel, but to bring it about by nominal measures - like an administrative decree or accelerated printing - would achieve little other than higher inflation.

The deficit stems from the real economy, where excessive public consumption reflects state spending - which is higher than state earnings, he explained.

"And just as a household should do in such a case, the government must reduce its spending," said Frenkel.

If the government would officially designate an inflation target for the end of the decade, and for each of the years until then, it would be compelled to meet those goals - since the public would thus have a tool with which to measure its reliability, he said.

Frenkel said the shortened election season is good from a macro-economic vantage point, since it eases budgetary pressures. He applauded Finance Minister



Frenkel: Shortened election season good from economic standpoint.

Avraham Shohat for having said an election season was no excuse for fiscal misbehavior.

He expressed confidence that immediately after the elections the new government will execute deep budget cuts and adopt long-term inflation and deficit goals, which in his view should be the binding guidelines for governments at least until the end of the decade.

While complementing the government for having facilitated the sharp drop last year in the annual inflation rate to a 25-year-low of 8.1 percent, the decline of unemployment to 6.3% from 11% four years ago, and the economy's 7.1% growth rate last year, Frenkel said the government was solely responsible for the yawning trade, budget and current account deficits.

Last year the current account balance, which measures the difference between the money which flowed into and out of the country, registered a deficit of \$4.2 billion, after deficits of \$2.5b. and \$1.3b. in 1994 and 1993 respectively, and a surplus of \$100 million during the 1990-1992 period.

As a share of Gross Domestic Product, the current account deficit grew last year to 4.8% from 3.4% the previous year.

The trade deficit, which measures the gap between goods and services entering and exiting the country, crossed the \$10b. mark for the first time last year, and the budget deficit leaped to more than \$11b., its third consecutive annual climb, and more than double its level in 1990.

The budget deficit rose to 3.5% of GDP last year from 2.2% in 1994.

Frenkel stressed that these macro-economic deteriorations all appeared in the past few years. He said they were attributable to a lack of fiscal discipline, as manifest in the generous pay raises given during that period to thousands of public-sector employees.

Though he criticized the government for having accumulated high deficits during the first two months of the year, which ate up 40% of the annual deficit target, Frenkel said he was happy with March's figures - which indicated the trend was stemmed.

WORLD BRIEFS

Lebanon's economy slows in January: Lebanon's economy slowed noticeably in January in almost all sectors, the Bank of Lebanon said yesterday. The central bank said its coincident indicator of economic activity dropped for the second successive month to 155.9 from 166.9 in December after peaking at 171 last October. *Reuter*

Heineken surges, takeover talk discounted: Shares in Heineken, which have risen over 20 percent in the last six weeks, pushed relentlessly higher yesterday, despite analysts discounting a newspaper report it was eyeing rival brewer Foster's. Industry watchers said the stock was starting to look somewhat expensive, based on its earnings multiples, and added they were slightly surprised at its inexorable rise.

A Heineken spokesman declined to comment on whether there was any truth in the report, carried in the *Australian Financial Review*. "We never comment on takeover rumors of any kind as a matter of company policy," he said.

Heineken shares closed up 9.70 guilders at 366.20 after climbing to yet another record intra-day high of 367.50. The stock has gained over 65 guilders in just six weeks. *Reuter*

Ministers meet to decide fate of Air Afrique: Francophone African states that own struggling multi-national carrier Air Afrique met in Abidjan yesterday to decide the fate of the airline, with host Ivory Coast urging all to rally round to save it from collapse.

"If we want Air Afrique to survive [and it must survive] we must, together, agree to pay the price," Ivory Coast's Saffiatou Ba-N'Daw told 10 fellow transport ministers at the start of their two-day meeting. *Reuter*

East German ministers warn against cutting funds: Finance ministers from Germany's five eastern states launched a preemptive attack yesterday against feared cuts in federal aid, which they said could make their region a permanent welfare state. The formerly communist eastern states - Berlin is not included - remain economically far behind their western siblings five years after unification, and will need funds for another 15 years to catch up, they said.

The ministers said their region is often misrepresented as a black hole where western money disappears, and is wrongly held responsible for Bonn's difficulty in reducing the unpopular 7.5 percent "solidarity surcharge" on income taxes. *Reuter*

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Currency (deposit rate)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (250,000)	4.50	4.25	4.875
Pound sterling (210,000)	4.25	4.25	4.200
German mark (200,000)	1.750	1.750	2.125
Swiss franc (200,000)	0.250	0.250	0.250
Yen (10 million)			

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates (1.496)

Currency	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	3.4725	3.5284	3.1357	3.1816	3.0001	3.0560
German mark	2.0822	2.1381	2.04	2.08	2.0080	2.0640
French franc	4.7019	4.7778	4.62	4.68	4.7413	4.8172
Japanese yen (100)	0.0138	0.0143	0.0133	0.0138	0.0128	0.0133
Dutch guilder	2.8869	2.9428	2.81	2.86	2.9272	2.9831
Swiss franc	1.8805	1.9364	1.82	1.87	1.9788	2.0347
Spanish peseta (100)	2.5817	2.6376	2.52	2.57	2.6315	2.6874
Scandinavian krona	0.4685	0.4741	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46
Norwegian krona	0.4738	0.4794	0.47	0.47	0.4677	0.4733
British pound	0.2384	0.2440	0.23	0.23	0.2348	0.2404
Canadian dollar	0.6825	0.6881	0.68	0.68	0.6710	0.6766
Australian dollar	2.2728	2.3287	2.20	2.25	2.2900	2.3460
S. African rand	2.4161	2.4720	2.37	2.42	2.4354	2.4914
Belgian franc (10)	0.7741	0.7797	0.76	0.76	0.7735	0.7791
Austrian schilling (10)	1.0109	1.0165	1.00	1.00	1.0029	1.0085
Italian lira (1000)	2.9807	3.0366	2.90	2.95	2.9838	3.0398
Irish pound	1.9657	1.9854	1.93	1.93	1.9615	1.9812
Portuguese escudo	0.0000	0.0000	0.00	0.00	0.0000	0.0000
Euro	3.8833	3.9392	3.78	3.83	3.8671	3.9231
High price	4.8857	4.9416	4.78	4.83	4.8627	4.9187
Spanish peseta (100)	2.4765	2.5324	2.43	2.48	2.4963	2.5523

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

Sivan: Treasury, Bank of Israel need to increase coordination

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE Bank of Israel and the Treasury should address the economic situation by increasing coordination between them and making fewer announcements to the media, Bank Hapoalim board chairman Amiram Sivan said yesterday.

"The first thing that they [the Bank of Israel and Treasury] must do is on a personal level," Sivan said. "It cannot be that they talk to each other through the press. So much more could be achieved if they would communicate."

Friction between the government's two main economic policy-making bodies has recently reached new heights, when Treasury director general David Brodet launched a frontal attack on Governor Jacob Frenkel's tight-money policies.

According to Sivan, neither the Bank of Israel nor Treasury have to make any dramatic changes before the elections.

"I don't think the reality necessitates dramatic measures," said Sivan, himself a former director general of the Treasury. "We are not in a recession, but the opposite, in a period of economic growth. Nevertheless, small amendments are necessary regarding the interest rate, foreign currency and a cut in the government's budget."

He criticized the Bank of Israel's monetary policy and warned that the burden on the economy will be high if there is no change in the currency rate.

"The monetary policy did not achieve its objectives," Sivan said. "We see this in its influence on the inflation rate, which is very low. We see that it has a relatively high burden on foreign currency, which is important to the economy no less than the inflation rate."

According to Sivan, the rise in the Bank of Israel's foreign currency reserves is due to external credit loans and not as a result of a growth in exports.

Sivan said 1995 was a good year for the economy in general, especially with regards to eco-

nomical growth and a drop in unemployment. He said the economy's high growth rate and investments place Israel among the strong countries in the world.

Last year, foreign investments rose to \$2 billion from \$80m.-\$90m. four years ago. He explained that the withdrawal of funds from the provident funds the last few months is partly due to a change in consumer spending habits.

He said there is a growth in consumption associated with the rise in the standard of living, reflected in the increase in those traveling abroad.

National Insurance Institute



All branches of the National Insurance Institute will be closed during Pessah from Wednesday, April 3.

The offices will reopen to the public on Thursday, April 11.

Hay Sameah

Information and Public Relations

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TENDERS

TENDER

The Israel Electric Corporation wishes to purchase the following goods and services

530876	Heat Shrinkable Cable Accessories	NIS 936
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Stage A - Submission of technical/commercial details, without prices. The bidder must supply a sample for inspection. The supply agreement is to be valid for two years, with an option to extend for an additional year with the same terms - all at the discretion of the Electric Corporation. This option can be exercised by the Electric Corporation, at any time during the period of the supply agreement.

Last day for submitting bids: May 12, 1996 at 11 a.m.

CONDITIONS APPLYING TO THE SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

1. The tender documents shall be in the form of a printed check, including a copy of the tender documents, and shall be submitted to the Tendering Department (Stage A), at the Israel Electric Corporation, P.O. Box 1000, Tel Aviv 6100, during the hours of office, Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The tender documents shall be available for inspection at the above address, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, from April 2, 1996 to April 11, 1996. Bids should be submitted in a sealed envelope, and be placed in Tenders Box No. 1000, at the Pal-Yam Building, Haifa (address as above) by the last date for submitting bids, as stated above.
2. No undertaking is given to accept the lowest or any bid.
3. In appropriate cases, the Electric Corporation will give preference to suppliers, in accordance with the Tenders Regulations (Preference for Locally Produced Goods, and Obligation to Extend Commercial Cooperation). The Electric Corporation retains the right to negotiate, where this is legally permissible.

The tender documents may be obtained on Monday, April 2, 1996, at the Tendering Department, Pal-Yam Building, Haifa, P.O. Box 1000, Tel Aviv 6100, during the hours of office, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The tender documents shall be available for inspection at the above address, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, from April 2, 1996 to April 11, 1996. Bids should be submitted in a sealed envelope, and be placed in Tenders Box No. 1000, at the Pal-Yam Building, Haifa (address as above) by the last date for submitting bids, as stated above.

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During Pessah, the offices of the Electric Corporation will be closed from April 3 to April 14, inclusive.

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TOURISTS & FOREIGN RESIDENTS

If you're planning to invest in Israel, consider our TARGET and PRIME Mutual Funds!

SPECIAL OFFER:

From March 17 to May 2, 1996, units of the PIA TARGET and PIA PRIME mutual funds will be offered at the unit price plus an additional increment of 0.25%.

Leumi Pia, Israel's largest and most established mutual fund company, controlling 21.9%* of the entire mutual fund market, now offers two U.S. Dollar denominated funds, exclusive to foreign residents:

PIA PRIME & PIA TARGET.

PIA TARGET: Boasting a return of 12.53%** over the last 12 months, this global and flexible fund invests its assets in shares of leading and well-established companies in Israel, Europe and the United States.

PIA PRIME: Boasting a return of 11.3%** over the last 12 months, Pia Prime invests the majority of its assets in foreign currency bonds traded on major world stock exchanges, including the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

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- 29.2.1996, yield in U.S. Dollars.
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- This advertisement does not constitute an offer to purchase participating units of the mutual funds. The purchase of units is executed according to the funds prospectuses.

(Member of the Bank Leumi le-Israel B.M. Group of Companies) **LEUMI, Pia**

Key Representative Rates
Change
US dollar NIS 3.070 -0.13%

NEW STOCK MARKET
Last Change
DJ Industrials 2920.00 +30.40

New York market indexes
Last Change
DJ Industrials 2920.00 +30.40

Other stock market indexes
Last Change
NYSE 100 3714.4 +1.7

Israeli stocks in NY
Last Change
Amir 38.5 +0.8

NASDAQ / over-the-counter
Last Change
NASDAQ 11726.00 +10.00

Commodity Trading Ltd.
Last Change
Oil 22.15 +0.05

LIBOR rates
Last Change
3 months 5.60%

Foreign financial data courtesy of
CommStock Trading Ltd.
Futures, Options, Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds

US commodities
Last Change
Corn (May) 1.15 +0.02

London commodities
Last Change
Oil 22.15 +0.05

Spot market metals (US)
Last Change
Gold 385.00 +0.10

New York metal futures
Last Change
Gold (Jun) 387.00 +0.10

London metal futures
Last Change
Gold (Jun) 387.00 +0.10

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Multi-sided trading, Two-sided trading, AFTERNOON, MORNING. Lists various stocks like Bank Leumi, Bank Hapoalim, etc.

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK THE PEOPLE YOU CAN TALK TO

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

NEW YORK, LONDON, PARIS, Frankfurt. Lists international stock prices for various companies.

Shares lower as Hapoalim drops in 4th quarter

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET
ROBERT DANIEL
Two-Sided index 192.59 -0.69%

STOCKS fell, dragged lower, as Bank Hapoalim reported a 32 percent drop in fourth-quarter earnings on higher provisions for doubtful debts.

FTSE up 18 points

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP
LONDON (Reuters) - British blue chip shares ended firm yesterday, supported by hopes of hushish news from merger talks between British Telecommunications and Cable & Wireless.

at a four-year high, helped by the dollar's rise into the 107-year level and expectations that fresh money would enter the market in the new fiscal year, which began yesterday.

PARIS - French shares closed at their highest level since August 31, 1994, underpinned by a strong franc, a higher dollar and firm US markets.

TOKYO - Tokyo stocks ended at a four-year high, helped by the dollar's rise into the 107-year level and expectations that fresh money would enter the market in the new fiscal year, which began yesterday.

FRANKFURT - German DAX ended at lower end of narrow 12-point session range amid thin trade, stockpicking. Market supported by firm Bunds, stable dollar and DAX futures.

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Flyers punish Lemieux-less Penguins

Detroit beats Dallas to maintain record-setting pace

NEW YORK (AP) — John LeClair closed a memorable March with three goals to give him 15 for the month as the Philadelphia Flyers beat the Pittsburgh Penguins 4-1 Sunday.

LeClair had 15 goals and eight assists during March, giving him 47 goals and 43 assists for 90 points for the season. The Flyers have now won five in a row and eight of their last nine.

In Philadelphia, the Penguins, who lost for only the second time in their last eight games, played without North American National Hockey League scoring leader Mario Lemieux, who took the day off after playing Saturday against New Jersey.

The victory allowed the Flyers to move to within three points of Pittsburgh, the Eastern Conference point leader with 96.

Rangers 4, Islanders 1

Sergei Nemchinov scored twice as the New York Rangers beat the New York Islanders at the Nassau Coliseum for their second straight victory after a 2-3-6 slump.

The victory helped the Rangers remain one point behind the Philadelphia Flyers for second place

in the Eastern Conference.

Alexei Kovalev snapped a 1-1 tie by putting the Rangers ahead 1-2 in the final period, as he one-timed the rebound of Jari Kurri's slap shot past Islanders goaltender Eric Fiehaud.

Nemchinov clinched the game at 8:03, as his backhand deflected in off a defenseman's skate. Mike Richter stopped 23 shots for his 22nd victory.

Red Wings 8, Blues 1

Sergei Fedorov and Slava Fetisov each scored two goals as host Detroit moved closer to setting an NHL victory record.

Fedorov also had two assists for Detroit, now just two victories shy of the NHL regular-season victory record of 60 set by the 1976-77 Montreal Canadiens. The Red Wings (58-12-5) have seven games remaining.

Braves 6, Sabres 5

Dave Reid scored two goals in the third period, including a short-handed tally with 3:29 remaining that lifted visiting Boston.

Reid's game-winner came after Buffalo was caught out of position in Boston's zone while attempting to put pressure on the Bruins during a power play. Reid, skating on a 2-on-1 break with Don Sweezy, lifted a wrist shot into the net over Sabres goalie Andre Trefilov.

Adam Oates added two goals for the

Bruins, who went into the game tied with Tampa Bay for the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference. Kyle McLaren, Jozef Stumpel and Dave Reid also scored for Boston.

Blackhawks 5, Stars 3

Bob Probert had his first two-goal game with host Chicago and also assisted on Brent Sutter's goal, leading the Blackhawks over Dallas.

Tony Amonte and Jeff Shantz also scored and Ed Belfour made 22 saves for the Blackhawks, who won for only the second time in six games without injured scoring leader Jeremy Roenick.

Capitals 1, Lightning 1

Roman Hamrik scored with eight minutes left in regulation, ending Jim Carey's bid for a third straight shutout and lifting visiting Tampa Bay to a tie.

Carey had extended his shutout string to a career-best 200 minutes, 4 seconds before Hamrik scored from the left circle to make it 1-1. Carey preserved the tie by stopping a break-

away by Mikael Andersson three minutes later.

Peter Bondra scored a shorthanded goal in the first period for the Capitals, who extended their unbeaten streak to six games (4-0-2). The tie moved Washington within two points of fifth-place Florida in the Eastern Conference.

Mighty Ducks 4, Sharks 2

Guy Hebert made 26 saves as the visiting Anaheim defeated San Jose to snap a two-game losing streak and stay in the playoff hunt.

Anaheim moved into ninth place in the Western Conference, a point ahead of the Edmonton Oilers, in the race for the eighth and final playoff spot.

Teemu Selanne, who recorded a hat trick the last time he faced the Sharks,

scored his 37th at 5:16 of the second on a slap shot from 40 feet, giving the Mighty Ducks a 2-0 lead. Paul Kariya, who assisted on Selanne's goal, later scored his 43rd to give the Mighty Ducks their winning goal.

Jets 4, Flames 1

Craig James continued his torrid scoring streak as he scored the winning goal for visiting Winnipeg.

The win moved the Jets within two points of seventh-place Calgary in the struggle for playoff position in the Western Conference, four points ahead of Anaheim and five ahead of the Edmonton Oilers.

Janney, who has five goals and eight assists in his last seven games for the Jets, was acquired from San Jose just before the NHL trading deadline.

EASTERN CONFERENCE					WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division					Central Division				
Team	W	L	T	PTS	Team	W	L	T	PTS
Philadelphia	40	22	13	83	St. Louis	38	28	12	88
N.Y. Rangers	39	21	14	82	Toronto	31	31	14	76
Florida	38	28	8	85	Winnipeg	33	38	5	71
Washington	38	29	11	83	Dallas	24	38	13	61
New Jersey	34	29	12	80	Pacific Division				
Tampa Bay	34	29	12	80	Colorado	43	23	10	98
N.Y. Islanders	29	47	8	48	Vancouver	30	32	15	75
Northwest Division					Calgary	31	34	11	73
x-Pittsburgh	46	26	4	96	Edmonton	29	38	6	66
Montreal	39	28	8	86	Los Angeles	22	38	17	61
Boston	36	30	9	81	San Jose	16	51	7	43
Hartford	31	34	9	71	<p>W-clinched division title, X-clinched playoff spot</p>				
Buffalo	28	40	7	63					
Ottawa	15	56	4	34					

Spain's Davis Cuppers arrive to take on Israel

SPAIN'S men's tennis team arrived in Israel last night ahead of this weekend's Davis Cup tie against Israel at Ramat Hasharon.

The Spaniards are hot favorites to beat their Israeli hosts and they sport four players with ATP rankings of 18, 28, 63 and 101. Israel's top player, Eyal Ran, is placed at 173 and appears unlikely to have the ability or the support needed to overcome Spain.

Ran will be joined by Eyal Erlich as second singles player, to face (in descending ranking order) the likes of Alberto Costa, Carlos Costa, Alex Coretta and veteran Emilio Sanchez who looks likely to be one of the doubles players.

Noam Behr will play in the doubles, probably with Ran.

Israel captain Shlomo Glickstein said that Israel are going out with the intention of winning the tie.

"The Spaniards are favorites over us in all departments, but the rankings in Davis Cup count for much less and we cannot write ourselves out before the first ball has been served. The days of losing honorably are over," Glickstein said.

He nevertheless warned that despite the Spaniards all being clay court specialists, but the fact that the tie is to be played on the faster hard courts of Ramat Hasharon is not likely to narrow the quality gap between the two sides.

The ranking of Israel's three other players is Behr (253), Ofer Sela (310) and Erlich (317).

The Spaniards wasted no time and soon after their arrival yesterday evening traveled straight to Ramat Hasharon for a first workout. Spain's captain is former great Manuel Santana.

After an initial reluctance to come here following the recent wave of bombings, the Spaniards said that they felt comfortable with the situation. Originally they had feared the situation here and had asked for the tie to be moved to another venue.

"I'm not at all afraid of being here," said Sanchez. "I've been here many times before and I like it very much. I hope we can play our best tennis and come away with a win, even though these days, there are no easy matches in world tennis," he continued.

Spain have won both previous Davis Cup meetings with Israel, and in both the Israels failed to win a single rubber. In 1953 the result was 5-0 and in 1992, 3-0.

The winners of the tie progress to the promotion/relegation playoff for the 1997 Davis Cup World Group, where the losers will stay to battle it out in Euro/African Zone 1 next year.

ORI LEWIS and HEATHER CHAIT

Rishon wins Final Four battle over Galil Elyon

Hapoel J'lem clinches second spot

MACCABI Rishon LeZion dealt a serious blow to Hapoel Galil Elyon's Final Four bid, defeating the visiting northerners 69-61 last night.

Maccabi moved one game ahead of Galil for the fourth and final playoff spot with only two games remaining. Rishon also held the tie-breaker over Galil, since the northerners beat Rishon by only three points in Kfar Blum.

Galil opened the game last night with a 9-1 run, but Rishon quickly evened the score at 9-9 with 14 minutes remaining in the half.

Galil, however, took a 36-29 lead into the locker room by taking advantage of 11 Rishon turnovers in the period.

Rishon stormed back in the second half behind the inspired play of point guard Gilad Shikun. He put pressure on Galil's young guards, causing several turnovers that resulted in fast-break scores during a 15-6 run that gave Rishon its first lead of the game with 12 minutes remaining.

But Galil managed to get the lead back and held a 56-54 lead as late as four minutes remaining in the game.

At that point, Brian Oliver scored six straight points to give Rishon the lead for good, as the more experienced club was able to control the ball down the stretch.

For Rishon, Oliver had 25 points and James Gully 15.

For Galil, Andrew Kennedy had 20 and Gur Shelef 15.

Hapoel J'lem 96, Hapoel Eilat 87

Hapoel Jerusalem clinched second place in the league with a home victory over Feisy Eilat.

The southerners fell behind 76-63 midway through the second half, but stormed back to cut the lead to 88-87.

But Adi Gordon made a basket down the stretch that sealed the victory for the capital squad.

For Eilat, the loss puts the team dangerously close to the relegation zone, as two teams will go down to the second division at the end of the season.

Taiba also called to IFA court today

HAPOEL TAIBA will, after all, be summoned to the IFA disciplinary court today, to answer charges following Friday afternoon's Second Division game with Hapoel Ramat Gan.

Specifically, the IFA's legal adviser, Assaf Hadasi, has decided, on evidence presented to him, that Taiba should be charged over the actions of their board member, Rafik Haj Yihye's actions, after the game was called off in the 70th minute by referee Shabtai Nahmias when Ramat Gan defender Yuval Naim blatantly attacked one of the linesmen.

Haj Yihye, who is also the mayor of Taiba, was on the pitch following the referee's cancellation of the game and began celebrating in what was seen as over-zealous jubilation when the club was rightfully awarded a technical 2-0 win. The Ramat Ganis led 2-0 at that stage.

Ramat Gan will be answering the bulk of the charges and Naim, who failed a lie-detector test for Channel 1, after claiming he did not headbutt the linesman, will be sure to be severely penalized.

Taiba were not implicated at all in the referee's report, but the IFA's legal adviser also has the prerogative of summoning a club, or individuals to face action by the IFA's disciplinary court.

Carlton launches title bid with win

MELBOURNE (AP) — Brad Pearce kicked four goals as reigning champions Carlton opened the defense of their premiership title with a hard-fought win over Collingwood in a first round match of the Australian Football League competition Sunday.

Carlton, playing in front of 70,000 people at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, beat arch-rivals Collingwood 16.13 (109) to 12.15 (87).

The Blues registered their 17th straight victory but were pushed to the final siren. They established a three-goal advantage by quarter-time and struggled to extend it, but in the end their supreme defense stood firm.

In addition to top-scorer Pearce, Stephen Kernahan grabbed three goals to steer Carlton to victory after the Magpies trailed by 16 points early in the final quarter.

In other matches Sunday, West Coast continued their dominance over fellow Western Australian club Fremantle, winning 9.13 (67) to 6.9 (45) in Perth, and Adelaide thrashed the Sydney Swans 20.10 (130) to 6.4 (40).

Geelong, beaten by Carlton in last year's grand final, are on top of the competition table after posting a 127-point win over Melbourne on Friday night, 27.21 (183) to 8.8 (56).

Veteran full-forward Gary Ablett led the way for Geelong, with nine goals. He kicked the first goal of the new season after 90 seconds of play and had notched six by halftime.

Melbourne were missing five of their regular first grade players through injury and were unable to halt Geelong's punishing attacking forays.

Greg Doyle was the team's top-scorer with four goals.

On Saturday, Brisbane registered their first win over Footscray in seven years 21.15 (141) to 7.12 (54).

Alastair Lynch, who had been sidelined for all of last year with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, kicked four goals for Brisbane before leaving the field five minutes before the end.

In other matches, Essendon avenged their loss to Richmond in the semi-finals of last season's competition by beating the Tigers 19.8 (122) to 15.14 (104).

The Bombers set up their victory in the first half when they held a 33-point lead as full-forward Scott Cummings scored six goals.

Richmond's fight-back was led by full-forward Matthew Richardson, who ended the game with six goals, grabbing four in the second half.

Pre-season competition winners St. Kilda suffered an immediate let-down as North Melbourne came from a point behind at the start of the last quarter to win 15.19 (109) to 12.13 (85).

North Melbourne's Peter Bell kicked four goals to lead the scoring, while St. Kilda's Stewart Loewe, who had a quiet final quarter, also booted four goals.

New Hawthorn coach Ken Judge was handed a dream start when his team posted a come-from-behind 21 point win over Fitzroy after trailing by 23 points at halftime.

Hawthorn scored eight goals to Fitzroy's two in the second half to win 13.14 (92) to 11.5 (71).

Jason Dunstall top-scored for Hawthorn with five goals.

AUSTRALIAN RULES FOOTBALL:
Essendon 19.8 (122) def. Richmond 15.14 (104)
N. Melbourne 15.19 (109) def. St. Kilda 12.13 (85)
Hawthorn 13.14 (92) def. Fitzroy 11.5 (71)
Brisbane 21.15 (141) def. Footscray 7.12 (54)
Geelong 27.21 (183) def. Melbourne 8.8 (56)
Carlton 16.13 (109) def. Collingwood 12.15 (87)
West Coast 9.13 (67) def. Fremantle 6.9 (45)
Adelaide 20.10 (130) def. Sydney Swans 6.4 (40).

Agassi wins Lipton on Ivanisevic injury

KEY BISCAYNE (Reuters) — Andre Agassi won the \$4.1 million Lipton final on Sunday after Goran Ivanisevic was forced to retire after waking with a stiff neck that prevented him from playing effectively.

Agassi, won the first three games and was leading 4-0 in the fourth when the Croatian retired.

Agassi, the third seed, collected the trophy and \$338,000 winner's check and Ivanisevic, seeded sixth, the \$178,000 runner-up prize.

The problem to the neck which Ivanisevic described as "blocked" prevented him from hitting his serve or backhand and he was visibly in pain for the short duration of the match.

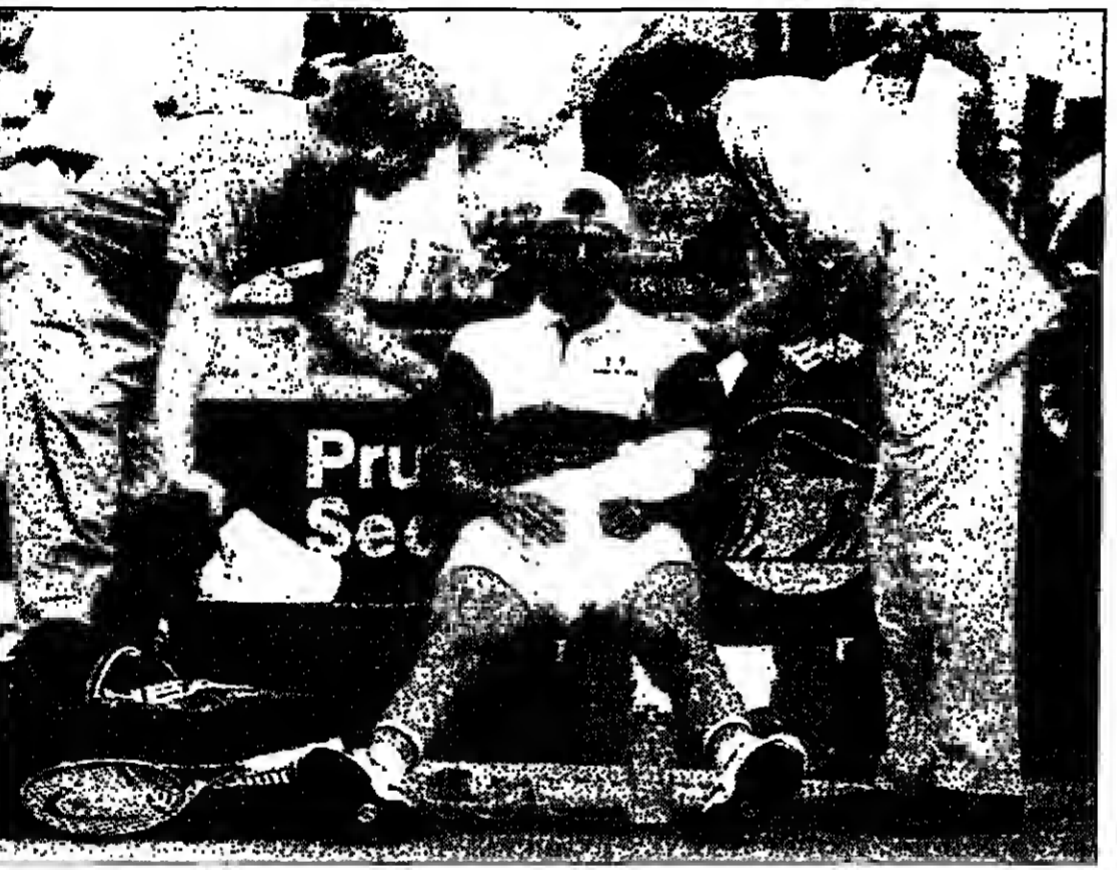
The hollow win marked Agassi's third career Lipton title. He also won in 1990 and 1995.

Tournament organizers replaced the truncated final with an exhibition match between Agassi and fellow American Jim Courier. That match was abandoned due to rain with Agassi leading 5-3.

"I feel like idiot here on the court just walking," a disappointed Ivanisevic told the crowd. "It hurts me; it's a final and a big tournament. I cannot just walk left and right for another six games not trying and wait for the rain. It's not me and I didn't want to do it."

The Lipton was Ivanisevic's seventh tournament this year. He has won four titles in 1996. The Lipton was Agassi's first title since New Haven, Conn. last August.

The start of the match was delayed by 40 minutes to allow doctors and trainers time to work on Ivanisevic's neck. Although



NO MATCH — Goran Ivanisevic is attended to by trainers after he ceded his match with Andre Agassi due to severe neck pain.

the rules usually demand a default, Agassi was willing to wait as he did two years ago for final round opponent Pete Sampras.

On that occasion, Sampras, suffering stomach trouble, came back and beat Agassi 5-7, 6-3, 6-3. Agassi said he was ready to wait again until Ivanisevic was ready. "I'm not here to somehow end up with the trophy," Agassi said. "I'm here to beat the guys who beat the guys. My reaction is that it's just an extreme disappointment."

The Lipton final was unplayed in 1989 when Austria's Thomas Muster could not compete against Ivan Lendl after being knocked down the night before by a drunk driver.

Muster subsequently went into rehabilitation, then embarked on the extraordinary comeback that saw him reach No. 1 in the world this year.

"Maybe all this six, seven weeks and traveling playing final every week and my body's tired," said Ivanisevic.

Tournament doctor Charles Virgin treated Ivanisevic in the morning with anti-inflammatory pills and injections as well as ice. He confirmed that fatigue may have caused Ivanisevic to sleep

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Handwritten note: "Medico Lico"

Shahak: We may never know why 'copter crashed

MEMBERS of an Israel Air Force inquiry panel yesterday continued to sift through the wreckage of the Yasur 2000 helicopter which crashed on Sunday, killing seven soldiers.

Chief of General Staff Lt-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak said the reason for the crash may never be known.

OC Air Force Maj-Gen. Herzl Bodinger ordered the inquiry immediately after the crash, which occurred about two kilometers from Mizpe Shalem, near the Dead Sea. He appointed a colonel to lead the inquiry and said he wanted initial results "as soon as possible."

Channel 2 said the findings would be handed over to Bodinger at the beginning of next week. However, senior IAF sources said the findings would take time, since the only evidence so far came from the two survivors and another helicopter crew which witnessed the crash. A group of hikers reportedly saw the crash and was also questioned.

The two soldiers who survived the crash were listed in satisfactory and good condition and are

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

recuperating at Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem.

Meanwhile, Maj. Eyal Geller, 33, of Ramat Gan, who had piloted the helicopter, was buried in the Kiryat Shaul cemetery last night. His funeral was attended by hundreds of IAF officers. His copilot, Capt. Ofer Schwartz, 26, of Rishon LeZion, was buried yesterday in the Rishon LeZion cemetery.

Cpl. Liav Filgod, 19, of Karmiel, was buried in the Karmiel cemetery yesterday afternoon. The funeral of Cpl. Guy Shafir, 20, of Kiryat Ono, was also held yesterday, as was that of Cpl. Inbal Tavisi, 20, of Petah Tikva.

Details on the funerals of Sgt.-Maj. David Weizman, 46, of Kiryat Malahi, and Cpl. Doron Ezra, 20, of Rishon LeZion, were not made public.

The inquiry team spent the day at the crash site, dissecting the charred wreck in a search for any remnant of the upgraded US-made Sikorsky CH-53 that might give them a clue to the accident's

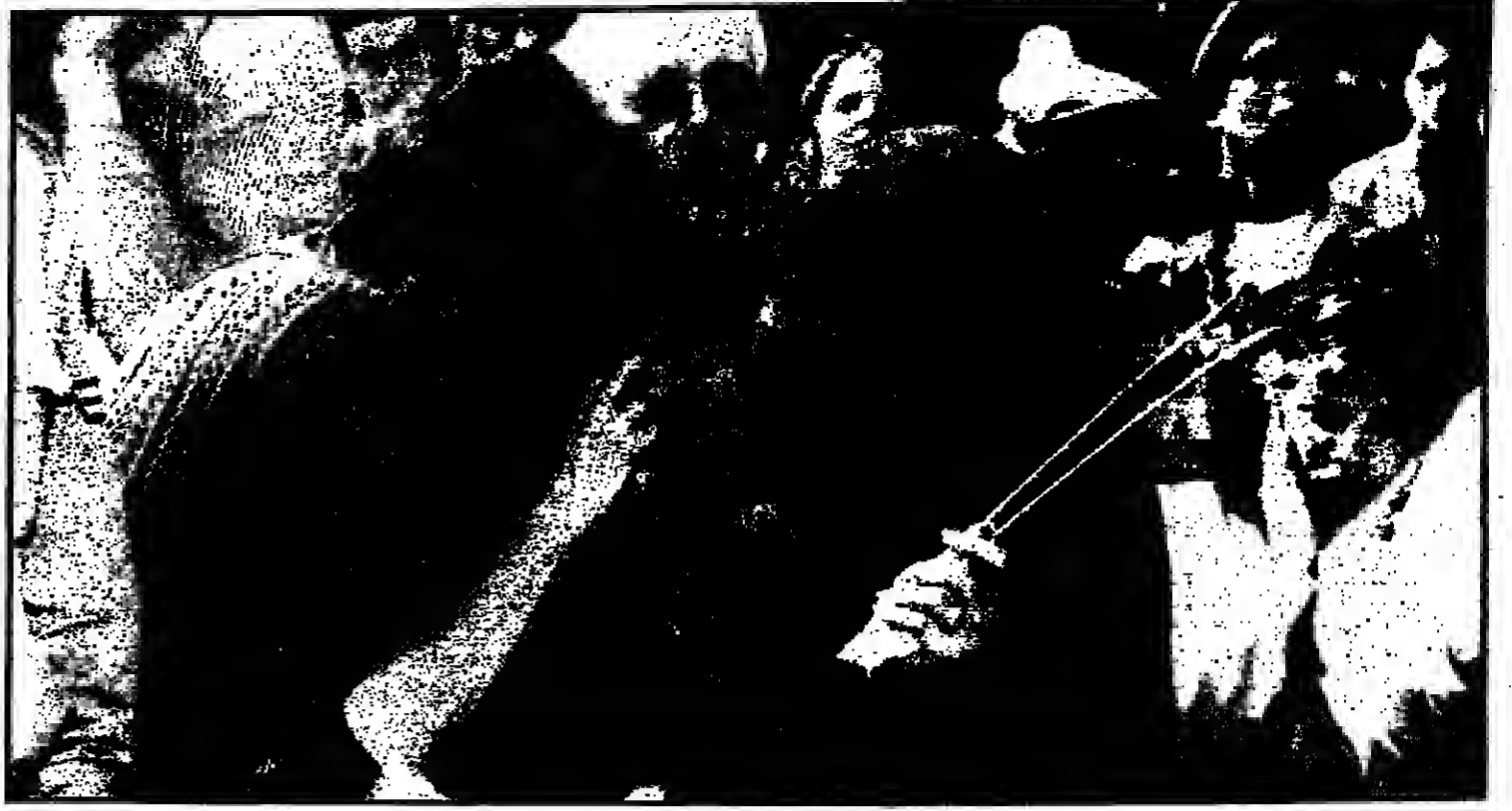
cause. The team failed to find any traces of the videotape Tavisi was making. It is possible she had been taping the exercise when the crash occurred, but the tape apparently burned in the wreck.

They also did not find the recordings of the crew's internal conversations, which they had hoped survived the fire. The Yasur had no black box.

The crash came following an accident-laden year for the IAF. At one point, there were so many mishaps and near misses that Bodinger restricted training and ordered that all complicated exercises cease.

"True, there are reasons to cease certain kind of flights, but it is not necessarily because they were done unprofessionally. In some cases, it was a message to the units to be careful, that there was a high concentration of accidents, and now we have to return to square one and start with basic flying," said Maj-Gen. (res.) Ram Goren.

Other than an F-15's running into a flock of storks, most of the accidents were reportedly the result of human error. At the time



Bereaved relatives of Cpl. Inbal Tavisi, killed in Sunday's helicopter accident, mourn at her funeral in Petah Tikva yesterday.

of Sunday's crash, there were no clouds, visibility was good, and wind velocity was normal, Bodinger said.

But he warned that it is still too early to determine if the crash was due to human error or a technical malfunction.

Just last week, Lipkin-Shahak addressed an IDF safety conference and sardonically noted how the IAF had succeeded in doing

what no Arab air force had done in decades: It downed three jets. Unfortunately, all three were in training accidents.

Israeli terror victims meet Oklahoma City counterparts

MARILYN HENRY
NEW YORK

A FEW weeks shy of the first anniversary of the Oklahoma City bombing, six Israeli teenagers — themselves victims of terror — traveled to the American heartland to talk about healing. The Israeli youths, now 14 and 15 years old, visited American youths and found they had much in common with their counterparts in Oklahoma. "Everyone has the same nightmares," said Sivan Horesh, who survived the bombing of the No. 5 bus in Tel Aviv on October 19, 1994.

"Having other children who lived through terror is comforting to our kids, to see that they're still hopeful, that you can get past this," said Kareo Alpert, principal of the Hebrew school in Oklahoma City, where the Israelis met with the Jewish students.

At a visit to the bomb site, the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building, the Israelis stared through a fence stuffed with teddy bears and notes. Tal Peretz, a victim of the April 1994 bombing of the Afula bus stop, said the site gave him flashbacks to the day his eyes, hands and hair were set ablaze after the bomb.

Tal was accompanied by his mother, Tamar, whose story has

captured special attention here. Tal, then 13, was so badly burned that Tamar, an emergency room nurse, did not recognize him when he first arrived at the hospital.

The bomb site "was really shocking," Horesh said yesterday in New York as the group prepared to return to Israel. "We could actually see it, like it was happening at that moment." "Unfortunately, terror hits everywhere," she said at the national office of the Anti-Defamation League, which arranged the visit as part of a program called "Peers in Healing."

"We want to say no to the violence, no to the killing, and yes to peace," she said repeatedly. The April 19, 1995 bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City killed 169 people and injured at least 500. The bombing irrevocably shattered Americans' sense of security; and was especially traumatic for the city, where, according to one survey, some 39 percent of the residents were personally acquainted with at least one of the victims.

The Israelis said they were pleased to have come to the US. Since the Israeli bombings, "everyone helped us," Horesh said.

Health Ministry reassures public that meat import standards safe

JUDY SIEGEL

THE Health and Agriculture Ministries, which for years have imposed stricter policies regarding the import of meat than European countries, said yesterday that there is no immediate need to make its policies even more stringent. The World Health Organization is meeting today and tomorrow for an update on information about bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE).

"If even more severe recommendations are made, Israel will take additional or even more drastic measures," a Health Ministry statement said.

Meanwhile, the Health Ministry will ask all cosmetic importers and manufacturers for details on the raw materials used to make their products. This was announced after it was learned that some cosmetic products are derived from gelatin and collagen made from cows. The ministry said it is in contact with health authorities abroad to find out what guidelines they have issued regarding cosmetics and the mad-cow disease scare in Britain.

The statement said it already knows that the source of "most of the ingredients is not cows and they do not come from Britain." Collagen implants injected under the skin to temporarily remove wrinkles come from the US and not from Britain, the ministry said.

Meanwhile, in an effort to relieve the worldwide hysteria over England's "mad-cow disease," a Tel Aviv information company has established a satirical Web site on the Internet dedicated to the subject. Shani Information Technologies notes that Israelis have "a great deal of experience in dealing with fear, and we suggest to the worldwide community to keep a stiff upper lip and enjoy a good laugh. The mad-cow disease site [at <http://www.promotion.co.il/madcow/>] that we created should alleviate much of the fear and anxiety of all those who have ever eaten a hamburger or drunk a milkshake."

The organizer, Arnon Katz, said there has been no conclusive proof linking BSE with the

dementia disease affecting humans, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, thus beefeaters around the world should relax.

The text, which reads like a newspaper's Purim page, includes fictional reports of combat soldiers battling angry rebel cows, complete with maps. Readers are also informed that directors of all cattle and meat associations around the world have been provided with 24-hour guards.

"We are asking the world community to contact us with information about mad cow attacks in their communities," it reads. "We will pass on all relevant information to the proper authorities."

Of the numerous Internet users who have responded, some sent poems, while a politically minded writer noted that "Hamas leaders are said to be on a strict diet of Mad Cow meat, milk and cheese."

Another man confided that he just had hung a sign from his house stating that he eats only fish and asked, "Will this keep the mad-cows from attacking my family?"

Haggai Amir: I tried to dissuade brother from shooting

RAINE MARCUS

HAGGAI Amir tried to dissuade his brother Yigal from shooting prime minister Yitzhak Rabin by suggesting that he instead plant nitroglycerine in the Rahins' Ramat Aviv home, according to evidence revealed yesterday.

The evidence was declassified in response to an appeal by Haggai Amir's lawyer, Moshe Meroz, to the Supreme Court that he be allowed to examine evidence against Amir which the

GSS had classified.

The Supreme Court allowed Meroz to examine a video film, recorded while Haggai Amir was in jail with Avshalom Weinberg, who also had been arrested following the assassination.

According to Meroz, the recording of Amir and Weinberg's conversations while in custody reveals that Amir tried to prevent

his brother from murdering Rabin by suggesting other "ridiculous ideas" — including placing nitroglycerine, an explosive and poisonous liquid, in the prime minister's home.

"On the tape, Haggai is seen telling Avshalom Weinberg that he was afraid that his brother Yigal would actually carry out his plans and shoot Rabin, and therefore

tried to suggest all kinds of impossible plans to stop him," Meroz said.

Haggai Amir is charged, together with his brother Yigal and Dror Adani, with conspiring to murder Rabin and injure Palestinians and their property, as well as with the possession of illegal weapons. Haggai Amir has admitted making the hollow pointed bullets his brother used to murder Rabin.

The trial will resume on April 17.

Leaking gas tanker causes major alert in Afula

DAVID RUDGE

A TANKER carrying 30 tons of cooking gas collapsed and cracked open near the northern entrance to Afula yesterday, sparking a major safety alert that lasted for more than 13 hours.

Police, firemen, and experts in dealing with hazardous chemicals raced to the scene after gas started leaking. The road was closed, and residents of a nearby apartment building were evacuated.

A power station in the area was shut to prevent any risk of leaking gas being accidentally ignited, and this disrupted power supplies to parts of the city.

Firemen doused the leaking tanker with water to further minimize the danger of an explosion, as Environment Ministry experts looked on.

Other tankers were brought in, but the process of transferring the gas was long and complicated. It was eventually completed, but then the broken tanker had to be carefully removed by a crane before the area was declared safe and the roads reopened.

Police are investigating the cause of the accident and whether the truck was capable of carrying such a heavy load.

WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear.

AROUND THE WORLD

City	Low	High	Wind	Cloud
Amsterdam	48	58	10	partly cloudy
Berlin	48	58	10	partly cloudy
Bombay	72	82	10	partly cloudy
London	48	58	10	partly cloudy
Los Angeles	62	72	10	partly cloudy
Madrid	48	58	10	partly cloudy
Manila	72	82	10	partly cloudy
Moscow	48	58	10	partly cloudy
New York	48	58	10	partly cloudy
Paris	48	58	10	partly cloudy
Shanghai	62	72	10	partly cloudy
Sydney	62	72	10	partly cloudy
Tokyo	62	72	10	partly cloudy

Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the 10 of spades, 8 of hearts, Q of diamonds, and K of clubs.

2000 new immigrants to visit capital

SOME 2000 new immigrants living in various parts of the country will tour Jerusalem today, visiting Yad Vashem, prime minister Yitzhak Rabin's grave, the Western Wall, and a matza factory, according to the Absorption Ministry. They also will meet with President Ezer Weizman at the Great Synagogue. (trim)

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THE JERUSALEM POST

Special Advertising Supplement on Friday, April 5, 1996

To the heirs of the late Emanuel Lapin, I.D. 840580, whose identities and addresses are unknown;

Since Mr. Mordechai Rozenblum, I.D. 388948 (hereafter "the petitioner"), has filed an application against you in the Tel Aviv District Court (opening motion 1935/95) claiming the right to be registered in the Land Registry Office as the sole owner and occupant of an apartment at 19 Rehov Hagat, Ramat Gan, Block 6125, parcel 4897;

Since a copy of the application and the court summons cannot be presented to you, as required by law, because your identities and addresses are unknown to the undersigned;

Since the date of the hearing of the application has been set for May 5th, 1996 at 8:30 a.m. before Judge Kling in the Tel Aviv District Court, 1 Rehov Weizmann, Tel Aviv;

You are requested to contact the petitioner's representative, Advocate Ya'acov M. Boyer, at the address below, to receive a copy of the above application. You are also requested to attend the hearing at the above date.

Ya'acov M. Boyer, Advocate, 53a Allenby St. Tel Aviv. Tel. 03-6295755, Fax. 03-6202390 Representing the Petitioner

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The Rabin Government's Road to the Oslo Accord

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